Bengaluru Monday, November 10, 2025 Pages 14 Vol 78 No 310 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Tharoor praises Advani, puts Cong in a spot

Says 'unfair' to reduce BJP leader's 'long years of service to one episode'

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Assam govt okays Bill to prohibit polygamy, proposes 7-year jail term

Business P.10

'India needs skilled manpower to become AI infra builder'

State

Man held for faking medical bills P.3

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BBC boss resigns over Trump docu edit P.12

Bandipur tiger that killed farmer captured

MYSURU, DHNS: A team of forest officials on Saturday late night successfully captured the male tiger that killed a farmer at a village near the Bandipur Tiger Reserve on Friday.

A senior forest official said the tiger had been severely injured on its neck, possibly from a snare, which forced it to attack humans as it couldn't hunt wild prey.

Chowda Naika (35) was killed by the tiger at Hale Heggudilu on Friday. The animal was captured 2km away from the site.

The same tiger, aged around 11 years, is suspected to have killed another farmer on October 31.

Details on Page 4

Prison 'VIP' treatment: HM seeks report

BENGALURU, DHNS: Home Minister G Parameshwara on Sunday sought a report from the top prison official and promised strict action against jail officials after videos surfaced showing hardened criminals enjoying 'VIP' treatment in Bengaluru Central Prison, with access to mobile phones and LED TVs.

Details on Page 4

Campaigning ends; all eyes now on Nov 14

122 seats go to polls on Tuesday in Bihar in final phase

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses a public meeting in Arwal district on Sunday. PTI

Campaigning for the second and last phase of Bihar Assembly polls ended on Sunday evening, with all eyes now on November 14 when votes will be counted and the winner of the keenly watched high-stakes election revealed.

BIHAR VOTES

On Tuesday, the remaining 122 seats will go to polls and 3.7 crore eligible voters will queue up to exercise their franchise to decide the fate of 1,302 candidates.

On the last day of campaigning, NDA and the I.N.D.I.A bloc leaders went hard at each other, with Home Minister Amit Shah raking up the bogey of infiltration and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi targeting the Narendra Modi government with 'vote chori' allegation. While Modi's campaign ended on Saturday, Rahul gave a last-minute push for his nominees at Kishanganj and Purnia on Sunday.

Among the notable candidates in the fray are Union minister Jitan Ram Manjhi's daughter-in-law Deepa Manjhi, who has been fielded from Maoist-affected Imamganj as the HAM (Hindustani Awam Morcha) candidate.

Another NDA ally Upendra Kushwaha's wife Snehlata is in the fray from Sasaram constituency as the Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) candidate. Bihar Congress president Rajesh Ram is contesting from his bastion Kutumba in Aurangabad.

The stakes are high for the RJD whose 70 candidates are in the fray in the second phase, while the BJP has 52 nominees and JD (U) 45 candidates.

The Congress, which extracted its pound of flesh during the seat-sharing talks, has 37 candidates in the fray in the last phase, mostly in the Muslim-dominated constituencies.

For the Tuesday poll, Makhdumpur (near Jehanabad) has the least number of voters (2,47,574), while Hisua in Nalanda has the maximum (3,67,667).

▸ **Bihar, Page 4**

Aspirational voters pitch for PK

With campaign ending, two key questions remain: whether the contest is a three-way race and which of the two coalitions—I.N.D.I.A bloc or NDA—Kishor's party JSP is harming more. DH found that Kishor was a favourite among aspirational voters.

Details on Page 5

'We are a body of individuals': RSS chief

Says Sangh a 'recognised' outfit, registration not must

BENGALURU, DHNS

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat claimed on Sunday that the saffron outfit's status as an "unregistered body of individuals" has been recognised and upheld in tax-related litigations in the past and that the organisation's status is within the Constitutional framework.

"We are categorised as (a) body of individuals. And we are a recognised organisation. The income tax department asked us to pay income tax, and there was litigation. The court said, this is a body of individuals and our 'guru dakshina' was exempted from the income tax," Bhagwat said.

He was responding to queries during the second day of his lecture series in Bengaluru as part of the centenary celebrations of the RSS.

"Even Hindu Dharma is not registered," Bhagwat said.

▸ **RSS, Page 4**

> We are categorised as (a) body of individuals. And we are a recognised organisation. The income tax department asked us to pay income tax, and there was litigation. The court said, this is a body of individuals and our 'guru dakshina' was exempted from the income tax
>
> **MOHAN BHAGWAT**
> RSS chief

Guj ATS busts alleged ricin terror plot

AHMEDABAD, DHNS

The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) arrested three persons on Sunday for allegedly planning terrorist attacks at various places, with officials claiming the individuals had conducted reconnaissance of locations in Lucknow, Delhi and Ahmedabad.

They recovered arms and ammunition, alleged to have smuggled from Pakistan, from one of the suspects who is believed to have links with the banned terrorist group Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP).

ATS said that it arrested 36-year-old Ahmed Mohiyuddin Saiyed, a resident of Rajendranagar in Hyderabad, from Kalol in Gandhinagar district. "Saiyed was involved in a conspiracy to carry out a terrorist attack in India and, as part of executing this conspiracy, had arrived in Ahmedabad," ATS said in a statement, adding he was preparing ricin, a lethal poison, for use. Saiyed had studied medicine in China.

▸ **Guj ATS, Page 4**

Plan foiled

- Suspect Ahmed Mohiyuddin Saiyed is believed to have links with terror group Islamic State Khorasan Province
- Saiyed, a resident of Hyderabad and a doctor, was allegedly preparing lethal poison ricin
- ATS officials claimed that suspects had conducted reconnaissance of locations in Lucknow, Delhi, and Ahmedabad

ENCROACHED

Survey revives hope for public access to lake

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

A new joint survey of the Ambalipura Lake catchment has revealed how a few small but strategic encroachments—including apartment structures and concrete slabs built over stormwater drains—have cut off the waterbody from the public.

The findings suggest that reclaiming these portions could reopen a direct access route from Sarjapur Road to lower Ambalipura Lake, which has long been treated as a private backyard by nearby gated communities.

Marking shows the extent of encroachment around the lake.

The survey was conducted in August this year, about a month after *DH* reported how five gated complexes had encircled the lake, blocking public view.

Following the joint inspection with officials from the now-dissolved Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the Assistant Director of Land Records (ADLR) found that four survey numbers, where apartment complexes are located, had encroached upon the stormwater drain by building concrete slabs.

▸ **B'luru lake, Page 4**

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Despite new operators, flyers still face cab crunch at airport

VIP pickup to be moved to make way for smoother vehicle flow

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Despite the entry of new cab operators, passengers at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) continue to face long waits and cab shortages.

On November 5, Disha Saini shared a video on X showing a long queue at the Uber pickup point, writing, "Landed in Bangalore at night to save time, and this is what the Uber pickup point looked like at the airport. Waited more than 2 hours here."

Long wait for cabs at the Kempegowda International Airport. FILE PHOTO

An airport source claimed that the number of cabs had increased recently with OHM Mobility joining the market and Mega Cabs taking over airport taxi operations.

To ease congestion, Bangalore International Airport Limited plans to shift the VIP pickup area further down Terminal 1 to free up space for cab movement.

At present, cabs operating at the airport include Ola, Uber, Quick Ride, OHM Mobility, and airport taxis. The airport taxi fleet has about 1,000 cabs, Quick Ride 550, and OHM Mobility around 150.

Uber runs both its regular service and Uber Black. Uber Black has about 1,000 vehicles.

However, passengers say the increase has not reduced wait time or improved service quality. Typical wait lasts 30 to 50 minutes, even during non-peak hours.

A passenger from Gorakhpur said, "I landed at 10.30 pm and saw about 50 people waiting for Uber. Staff urged me to book Uber Black — regular Uber cost Rs 1,000, Uber Black cost Rs 3,000. I ended up bargaining with a private operator, paying Rs 1,500 to Yelanchanahalli."

'Supply challenges'

An Uber spokesperson acknowledged that car availability at airports like Bengaluru fluctuates based on travel patterns.

Supply challenges across the industry, the spokespers on said, continue to affect passenger experience.

The persistent cab crunch at KIA, despite multiple operators, highlights the need for coordinated long-term planning by airport authorities and cab companies to ensure smoother transport for flyers.

Unruly drivers

Many flyers have complained that on-ground Uber staff push them towards premium Uber Black or SUV options.

Others say private taxi drivers crowd the arrival gates and behave aggressively despite designated pickup zones.

A Quick Ride official said demand peaks on Sunday evenings. "It is usually on Sundays that we face a shortage of cabs, so during that time we only accept pre-booked rides," he said.

Ola did not respond to phone calls seeking comment.

Vendor accused of double murder shot

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 41-year-old man suspected of involvement in two murders was shot after he allegedly attacked a head constable during a spot inspection in Bommasandra, south Bengaluru, on Saturday.

Ravi Prasad Reddy, a vegetable vendor originally from Andhra Pradesh, was arrested on Friday for abducting and murdering two people — his landlord Balappa Reddy and Madesh, a provision store owner, within two days.

On Saturday, when Hebbagodi police took Ravi for a spot inspection, he allegedly attacked head constable Ashok with a sharp object and attempted to flee. Police inspector Somashekhar fired a warning shot to restrain him, but Ravi tried to attack a sub-inspector. The inspector then shot him in the leg, injuring and immobilising him.

"Ravi had abducted his landlord Balappa Reddy on November 6 and slit his throat for refusing to pay ransom. Before that, he had barged into Madesh's house in Kittaganahalli on November 4 and escaped with Rs 2 lakh in cash," said E-City DCP Narayana M.

Hosakerehalli flyover to open after 5-year delay; doubts linger

Inauguration in mid-Nov; residents doubt traffic relief

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Hosakerehalli flyover near PES University is finally set to open after five years of delay.

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has announced that the flyover will be inaugurated in mid-November and is expected to ease congestion along the Outer Ring Road.

Construction began in August 2020 with a 15-month deadline, but stretched into a five-year ordeal, making daily commuting a nightmare.

Many residents remain sceptical that the new structure will significantly reduce traffic.

"We have suffered for five years. The never-ending dust and traffic have disturbed us tremendously. But with this flyover, the traffic problem will not be solved. It will just move to PES University and Ittamadu junctions," said Shashi Kumar, who runs a pharmacy under the flyover.

Commuters said the only benefit would be the reopening of the road from Kerekodi to Girinagar for regular traffic movement.

"Nobody had requested this ramp as there were signals at the junction and traffic was manageable. The government has inconvenienced everyone for five years for a 500-metre ramp," said Rajashekar, an auto driver from Veerabhadranagar.

Tushar Giri Nath, Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development Department (UDD), had set a 15-day deadline on October 10, which was missed.

A senior traffic official said a lot of work is still pending.

"The debris needs to be cleared. The midweek deadline will likely not be met. For the PES Junction to be cleared, we need to close it and instruct motorists to use the next junction for U-turns," he said.

"We are hopeful that the flyover trials will begin from Monday," the traffic official added.

SHASHI KUMAR
An owner of a pharmacy under the flyover

"We have suffered for five years. The never-ending dust and traffic have disturbed us tremendously. But with this flyover, the traffic problem will not be solved. It will just move to PES University and Ittamadu junctions.

Trial run today

Officials said they were hopeful of starting the trial run on Monday. Senior GBA officers have ordered repairs to service roads and the commencement of trial runs.

The flyover nears completion, with asphalt and painting works in progress. The construction began in August 2020, with a 15-month deadline. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

'50% work done by us,' says BJP's R Ashoka

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka said, "Our government started the project and completed 50% of the work when we were in power, but this government did not release funds. Contractors said they would continue the project if paid."

On the flyover inauguration, he said, "It is almost complete and should open in about 15 days. I will pressure the government to open it for the public immediately and they can hold their formal inauguration whenever they have time."

Co-passenger dies after goods vehicle driver flees crash site

BENGALURU, DHNS: Tragedy struck late Saturday night near Dairy Circle when a goods vehicle, suspected to be a food truck, overturned, killing a co-passenger allegedly abandoned by the driver.

The accident took place around 11.30 pm near the KMF Gate on Tavarekere Road. Police said the driver was suspected to be speeding, which caused the vehicle to overturn after he lost control.

The co-passenger, seated on the left, was flung out and trapped under the vehicle, sustaining severe head injuries.

Local residents rushed to help, lifting the vehicle to free both occupants, police said.

Instead of taking the injured man to hospital, the driver reportedly made him sit on the footpath and fled in panic with the vehicle. The victim succumbed overnight due to his injuries and the delay in treatment.

Mico Layout traffic police have registered a case and launched an investigation. Efforts are on to trace the vehicle and arrest the absconding driver for negligent driving leading to death.

"The identity of the deceased is still unknown, and we are trying to track down the vehicle and the driver who escaped," a police officer said.

ONE REGION, ONE SPIRIT

A riot of colour & culture at Northeast fest

BENGALURU, DHNS

The city came alive on Sunday as the North-East United Forum Bangalore (NEUFB) hosted the North-East Fusion Carnival 2025 at St Joseph's University Auditorium, Shanthi Nagar.

The day-long celebration brought together one of the largest gatherings of the Northeast community, showcasing the cultural richness, talent, and entrepreneurial spirit of the eight Northeastern states.

The carnival offered a vibrant mix of traditional and fusion dance performances, authentic cuisine, and exhibitions of local crafts and innovative startups. Its central theme — strengthening the cultural bridge between the Northeast and the rest of India — resonated strongly with participants and visitors alike.

Two podcast sessions headlined the event. The first featured Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma, head of the royal house of Tripura, and James PK Sangma, Chairman of the Meghalaya Industrial Development Corporation. The second included former MLA and poet Mmhonlümo Kikon, and Daniel Langthasa, founder and convenor of the People's Party.

Regional achievers and cultural ambassadors were felicitated for their contributions.

"This carnival is more than just a cultural show; it is a powerful statement of unity in diversity," said Arun Meetei, a NEUFB member. "It is about celebrating our identities while showing that in Namma Bengaluru, we are one family."

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, in a video message, commended the organisers for promoting harmony and inspiring regional collaboration.

Participants showcase vibrant traditional attire at the carnival in Bengaluru on Sunday. DH PHOTO

Kerala man hangs self; two women flatmates booked

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

A 39-year-old medical transcriptionist from Kerala was found hanging under mysterious circumstances in his Hulimavu flat on Sunday, police said.

Vishnu CP

The deceased, identified as Vishnu CP from Thiruvananthapuram, was found inside the toilet of his rented flat in Yelenahalli around 11 am. He was rushed to St John's Hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. Police said no suicide note was found.

Preliminary inquiries revealed that Vishnu, who worked for a healthcare company, shared the flat with two women employed in private firms.

His family, however, suspects foul play. Vishnu's brother, Jishnu CP, alleged that he had been harassed by his two flatmates.

"My brother was being harassed by both women over some issue.

"We are waiting for the post-mortem report to know the exact cause of death. I have been informed that one of the flatmates has been taken into police custody for questioning and the truth will emerge after a detailed inquiry," Jishnu told *DH*.

Following his complaint, Hulimavu police have registered a case of abetment to suicide against both women and initiated further investigation.

Helpline
If you are experiencing thoughts of self-harm or suicide, please reach out to the TeleMANAS helpline at 14416 for support.

Mind matters: Conversations on intimacy, identity and belonging mark Manotsava 2025

BENGALURU, DHNS: The second day of 'Manotsava 2025: National Mental Health Festival' explored the coexistence of masculinity with vulnerability, marital intimacy, workplace burnout, and rising suicide rates.

Discussing the lack of intimacy in marriage, Dr Sandip Deshpande, psychiatrist and sexual and relationship therapist, said that the problem stems from sexual medicine not being recognised as a branch by the National Medical Council.

Clinical psychologist Dr Shobha Managoli said drawing boundaries in marriage was essential since in-laws, family and friends could affect sexual life, sometimes leading to medical issues.

Experts added that just as a woman must adapt to a new household, the family she marries into must also adapt to her.

Doctors also said seeking help for sexual orientation should be normalised.

Telecommunications have made it easier for patients to consult doctors remotely, experts noted.

Experts take part in a panel discussion on the second day of the national mental health festival in Bengaluru on Sunday. DH PHOTO/RANJU

Men & vulnerability

Speaking on masculinity in the Gen Z world, youth influencer Shivam Dutt said, "We want to talk about mental health and masculinity together because if I have a mental health issue and cannot create content, it sets me behind."

He added, "People talk about fashion and lifestyle, but nobody talks about wellbeing. We do not have role models discussing mental health, so someone has to take that space."

Documentary filmmaker Rahul Roy shared his experience of childhood abuse. "I had a very traumatic experience. I could not process it then and began doing so only in college when I had access to literature," he said.

Workplace burnout

Psychologist and lifestyle coach Sailaja Manacha said Bengaluru's tech-driven culture and startup ecosystem have intensified burnout. "Capitalism and unrealistic corporate expectations make people chase bigger dreams at the price of burnout," she said.

Suicides

An expert panel observed that mental illness leading to suicide cannot be attributed to a single cause.

Arjun Kapoor from the Centre for Mental Health Law and Policy said, "Suicides arise from ordinary life problems such as domestic violence, bullying, caste discrimination, and farmers' distress. Therapy helps, but the root causes must be addressed."

Dr Naveen Kumar from Nimhans said the Telemanas helpline has serviced 25 lakh people, including 40,000 suicide-related calls — 80% from those with suicidal thoughts. He added that Maharashtra and Karnataka record among the highest suicide rates in India.

RMS Bengaluru wins Best Delegation Trophy

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rashtriya Military School, Bengaluru, lifted the Best Delegation Trophy at the Rashtriya Military School Model United Nations Conference 2025.

The Rashtriya Military School Model United Nations Conference 2025 was conducted on October 31 and November 1.

The conference saw student participants don the role of UN delegates, representing a specific country, debating global issues and drafting resolutions in committees, among others.

The student delegates deliberated on 'Combating state-sponsored terrorism' in the model UN General Assembly, while in the model UN Security Council, they debated 'Regulating the development and use of lethal autonomous weapon systems', according to a release.

Participants of the Rashtriya Military School Model United Nations Conference 2025, which was conducted on October 31 and November 1 in the city.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Eco-Watch and Karnataka State Western Ghats Conservation Taskforce Committee: National-level Environmental Conference on the Western Ghats of South India; Eshwar Khandre, Suresh Heblikar, Mohammed Tabrez Alam Sharif and others participate; Devaraj Urs Bhavan, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumara Krupa Road; 9.30 am.

CULTURAL

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan: 'Santvani' programme: Films, books, lectures, music, dance, drama and seminars; inauguration at 3 pm by TS Nagabharana and Narahalli Balasubrahmanya; film screening 'Bhakta Kanakadasa' at 4 pm; Khincha Auditorium, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Race Course Road;

Nritya Disha Trust: 'Nritya Neerajana' dance festival; perfomers: R Amoolya, M Dharani, D Maulya and S Shrinidhi; direction: Darshini Manjunath; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 5.30 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.0°C
Minimum	17.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	68%
Sunset (Nov 10)	5:51 pm
Sunrise (Nov 11)	6:16 am
Moonrise	9:44 pm
Moonset	10:09 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

Need a hand? Write to us

Letters of grievances are pouring in and we are doing our best to accommodate as many as possible. Readers may write in to highlight civic problems affecting their locality and we will help address them in an interactive and effective manner. Grievances and issues related to public utility agencies such as Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (Bescom) would be highlighted in the weekly column.

The writeups, which could be accompanied by photographs highlighting the problems, will be published on Mondays. Mail your grievances to: peoplesproblems @deccanherald.co.in

Waterlogging problem resolved

Following the *People's Problems* report on November 3, highlighting the distress faced by the elderly residents of Wesley Old Age Home on Benson Road due to waterlogging near the facility's entrance, the issue was resolved on November 4.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to BWSSB Executive Engineer Nalini for her consistent follow-ups and to Manjunath, the PA of the Shivajinagar MLA, for promptly addressing the complaint.

Arda Kaikhushroo Batha,
Benson Town

Auto meters: Bengaluru shouldn't go Chennai way

It has become common for autorickshaw drivers to refuse to ply by the meter and demand exorbitant fares. This has become a serious inconvenience for commuters who rely on autos for their daily travel.

Despite repeated complaints to the police — including one made to the commissioner during Janata Darshan — no concrete action has been taken against such drivers. If autorickshaw drivers adhere to the meter, commuters would not have to depend on ride-hailing apps that charge additional fees.

If this trend continues, Bengaluru may soon face the same situation as Chennai, where autos rarely follow rules.

Sudhir S Mysore

Revenue dept to issue new SC caste certificates from today

Adi K'taka, Adi Dravida, Adi Andhra can register under A or B category

BENGALURU, DHNS

The revenue department will issue new caste certificates on Monday to members of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) based on the new 6:6:5 categorisation of internal reservation made by the government.

Revenue department principal secretary Rajender Kataria told *DH* that the National Informatics Centre (NIC) software was on trial and that all arrangements had been made for its roll-out on Monday.

"The Atalji Janasnehi Kendra team is briefing all tahsildars on Monday on how to use the software and the process to be followed for issuing certificates. The technical team is already in touch with the team on the field," the officer said.

As per the draft certificates, a person needs to mention his SC sub-caste and the category to which he belongs (A, B, C).

As per the government's categorisation, 16 castes (Madigas and 15 affiliated castes) have been categorised under Group A, 19 castes (Holeyas and 18 affiliated castes) have been categorised under Group B and 63 castes (Lambanis, Bhovis, Kormas and Korchas and 59 'most backward' communities') have been categorised under Group C.

If those belonging to Adi Karnataka, Adi Dravida and Adi Andhra (AK, AD and AA) communities do not know their original caste, they can either register under Group A or Group B. However, the choice they make will be considered final.

"Around 60 lakh people have taken caste certificates by mentioning sub-castes. If they give their old RD number, they can take new caste certificates, in which new RD numbers will be mentioned. There will be a problem only for those mentioned as AK, AD and AA," sources in the social welfare department told *DH*.

They said that the tahsildars would check the documents submitted by the applicants and issue caste certificates if there are no problems.

"If there are doubts, revenue inspectors will conduct spot inspection, speak to people nearby about their caste and prepare a report. Based on this, the tahsildar will issue caste certificates if he or she is convinced," the sources added.

Man held for faking medical bills to claim CM's relief fund

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

A 59-year-old man from Nelamangala has been arrested for submitting fake medical bills and documents to fraudulently claim money from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

The suspect, G Dhananjaya, allegedly forged documents and submitted fake hospital bills to obtain financial assistance meant for patients in need of emergency medical treatment, a senior police officer told *DH*.

Police have identified four other suspects — Kyathanna, Jayamma, Yashodamma and Chandrashekar — all from Bengaluru Rural district. Kyathanna and another suspect passed away a few months ago while Dhananjaya allegedly submitted a fresh application to claim benefits for the second time.

Police investigations revealed that Dhananjaya, who had completed the Teacher Training Course, approached individuals who had undergone treatment in private hospitals in Yeshwantpur and collected their details.

He later created forged documents using similar names and submitted them to the chief minister's home office 'Krishna' to claim relief funds.

In May this year, officials in the CMO detected discrepancies in a few applications but were unable to trace their source. On November 5, Dhananjaya reportedly visited the CM's office located on the second floor of Vidhana Soudha to inquire about the delay in crediting funds to a beneficiary linked to an application he had submitted.

The staff reportedly found the inquiries suspicious and notified the Vidhana Soudha police, who registered a case the same day.

Dhananjaya was picked up for questioning, and police discovered that he had collected Aadhaar, bank account details and other documents from many people under the pretext of helping them obtain the relief fund.

Dhananjaya allegedly demanded a fixed commission — Rs 50,000 — from each beneficiary once the amount was sanctioned. He used the money for his living expenses, a police officer said.

Police are also investigating whether he was involved in similar offences in the past.

How to access it?

Under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, money is released solely on the chief minister's discretionary powers and ranges from Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. Applications need to be submitted online through the Seva Sindhu portal by providing details of BPL and Aadhaar cards, hospital final bill, estimated or discharge summary and bank account details.

VICE PRESIDENT IN KARNATAKA

Vice President C P Radhakrishnan with Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot during his visit to Sri Chamundeshwari Temple atop Chamundi Hill in Mysuru on Sunday. PTI PHOTO

KSRTC bags award for navigation system for visually impaired

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) said it had received the National Award for Excellence in Urban Transport-2025 from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

The award was presented for the KSRTC's Dhwani Spandana project under the category of the Best State for Implementing Urban Transport Projects in the previous year.

Dhwani Spandana, a first-of-a-kind initiative, was recognised for pioneering efforts in advanced, inclusive and accessible public transport for visually impaired passengers in 200 Mysuru city buses.

In addition, the corporation's OnBoard Bus Identification and Navigation System, enables users to identify approaching buses and locate entry points safely through assistive audio signals. More than 400 visually impaired users have been trained to use the technology.

GBA rolls out 'random round-robin' system to fast-track e-khata clearances

Ensures no direct contact between applicants and approving officers

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a major reform aimed at speeding up e-khata approvals and cutting out local-level interference, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has introduced a "random round-robin" backend system that automatically allots property applications to Assistant Revenue Officers (AROs) and caseworkers across the city regardless of their jurisdiction.

The new system, part of the civic body's faceless and contactless e-khata platform, has been developed to ensure no direct contact between applicants and approving officers. Officials said the model—started amid resistance from its staff—not only accelerates file clearance but also eliminates the scope for middlemen and corruption.

"No citizen or agent will know who is handling their file, and no officer will know the applicant. This anonymity ensures fairness, transparency and faster disposal," Munish Moudgil, Special Commissioner (Revenue) at the GBA, told *DH*.

So far, some revenue offices, especially in Mahadevapura and KR Puram, were burdened with hundreds of pending khata requests while others in places like Dasarahalli had minimal work. The new allotment mechanism balances the workload among all 64 AROs, helping process applications faster and more evenly across the city. This also provides very little or no scope for middlemen to collect hefty fees or bribes from citizens in the name of getting the e-khata faster by boasting their direct access to the officers.

Earlier, the GBA had introduced a First-In-First-Out (FIFO) system to process applications based on chronology, meaning applications are processed in the exact order they are received.

Officials said the final e-khata applications were now cleared within two to three days on average, while those involving corrections, disputes or field verification might take longer. However, getting new e-khata is taking a longer time, stretching more than two to six months as field inspections are being delayed.

According to the GBA, all 25 lakh property khatas falling in the jurisdiction of all five corporations in Bengaluru have been digitised and are now available at https://bbmpeaasthi.karnataka. gov.in.

Citizens can apply for final or new khatas online or through BangaloreOne centres, track the status of their applications and download approvals without visiting any office. A dedicated helpline (94806 83695) has also been set up for citizens facing issues with their applications.

"Please do not approach anyone or pay any agent. Every application is processed online and monitored daily by senior officers," the GBA said in a statement.

Recently, the civic body's e-khata system bagged the National e-Governance Award (Gold) 2025 from the Government of India, recognising its impact in bringing transparency, accountability and efficiency to urban property management.

Mysuru Jayadeva Hospital to get 200 more beds

MYSURU, DHNS: The bed capacity at Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology in Mysuru will be increased by 200 by constructing an additional building, said Institute Director Dr B Dinesh.

He was speaking at a programme to mark 15th anniversary of the institute. Hospital Medical Superintendent K S Sadanand said that the Institute has treated 16 lakh people and conducted 4,000 surgeries in the last 15 years.

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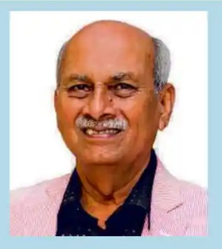

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CISF guard dies as gate collapses on him at Kaiga power plant

KARWAR (U-K DIST), DHNS: A 48-year-old head constable of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) died after a heavy gate at the entrance of the nuclear waste disposal unit collapsed on him at the Kaiga nuclear power plant near here on Saturday night.

The freak accident occurred in the night shift when the victim, Shekhar Bheemarao Jagadale, a native of Mahimangad in Maharashtra, was guarding the place. Jagadale's colleagues rushed to his help hearing his cries, but the grievously injured head constable breathed his last before he was rushed to the KGS hospital after being administered first aid at the nearby clinic, the Mallapur police said, quoting officials of the power plant.

30 acres of sugarcane crop gutted

RAIBAG (BELAGAVI DIST), DHNS: Nearly 30 acres of ready to harvest sugarcane crop was gutted due to a short circuit at Bhiradi village in the taluk on Sunday.

The incident occurred in Raibag police station limits at a farm belonging to Ningappa Mirje, Raju Langote, Nagappa Teli and Amar Kestikar near Vittharaya temple. Local residents and fire services personnel to doused the blaze.

HM seeks report on 'VIP' treatment for prisoners, promises probe by panel

'Enough is enough; whoever is responsible must face action'

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Sunday sought a report from the top prison official and promised strict action against jail officials after videos surfaced showing hardened criminals enjoying 'VIP' treatment in Bengaluru Central Prison, with access to mobile phones and LED televisions inside their barracks.

Speaking to reporters, Parameshwara said he had convened a meeting of senior police officers on Monday and sought a detailed report from Additional Director General of Police (Prisons) B Dayananda.

"I have spoken to Dayananda who was on leave. But I have asked him to submit a detailed report — whoever is responsible must face immediate action. I will not tolerate this nonsense. Enough is enough".

He promised to form a committee to look into security lapses in prisons as such incidents are repeating inside the barracks. Viral video footage Saturday showed more than 13 smartphones kept next to a newspaper inside a barrack and two tabletop LED TVs playing an item song.

Media reports suggested some prisoners, including serial rape accused Umesh Reddy, gold smuggling suspect Tarun Raj and terrorism suspect Juhad Hameed Shakeel using mobile phones inside their barracks.

A senior officer, who visited the jail after the video emerged, stated in his report to the ADGP that the footage was from 2002.

However, the video purportedly shows the prisoners holding a four-day-old newspaper and a November page in the calendar.

A search of multiple barracks on Saturday night found no illegal items. Officials suspect information about the search was leaked in advance.

In early October, a head warder and a warder were suspended, while an assistant superintendent, two jailers and two assistant jailers faced departmental inquiry after a video showed history-sheeter Srinivasa alias Gubbachhi Seena celebrating his birthday with cake and garlands inside the prison on September 9.

Several surprise inspections in the past by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) and the city police have led to the seizure of contraband, including mobile phones.

In some cases, prison and medical staff were caught trying to smuggle in prohibited items, indicating a possible nexus between the inmates and the officials.

A grab from the video that emerged on Sunday showing prison inmates holding a full-blown bash – beating drums and dancing inside the barracks.

Meeting called today

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said that the Home Minister has called a meeting of officials in connection with the 'VIP' treatment for prisoners, reports DHNS from Vijayanagara. Speaking to reporters in Harapanahalli on Sunday, the chief minister said that instructions have been given to initiate action against persons found guilty.

G PARAMESHWARA
Home Minister

"I have spoken to Dayananda who was on leave. But I have asked him to submit a detailed report – whoever is responsible must face immediate action. I will not tolerate this nonsense. Enough is enough.

One more video shows liquor party

In another video that emerged on Sunday, prisoners are hosting a drinks party, holding a full-blown bash — beating drums, dancing and even enjoying plates of kebabs inside their barracks. Four liquor bottles were also shown kept near the window. However, officials are tight-lipped about whether the footage is from the Bengaluru prison or some other facility.

Case to be filed

Officials have decided to file a case at the Parappana Agrahara police station to launch an investigation into who made the videos and who leaked them.

Tiger which killed Saragur farmer rescued in Bandipur

SHILPA P
MYSURU, DHNS

A team of forest department personnel rescued a 11-12 year old male tiger at Moleyur wildlife range of Bandipur Tiger Reserve late on Saturday night.

It is suspected that this tiger is the one which killed farmer Chowda Naika (35) at Hale Heggudilu village in Sargur taluk of Mysuru district on Friday morning.

It is said that the same tiger killed another farmer on October 31. However, the tigress which injured a farmer on October 26 is still elusive.

"It is a great rescue operation by forest department personnel and veterinarians. As per preliminary observation, the tiger had been snared, leading to severe injury on the neck, which made it attack humans since it could not hunt wild prey," Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Kumar Pushkar said.

The tiger was captured around 2 km from the spot where it had killed the farmer. Officials said that the pug marks of the tiger were found at the said spot.

Samples of hair and blood from the rescued tiger has been sent for DNA analysis for confirmation that it was the one which killed the farmer on Friday, officials said.

Elephants from several camps, Bandipur tiger reserve director S Prabhakaran, wildlife veterinarians Dr Ramesh, Dr Wasim, sharp shooter Ranjan and others were part of the rescue team.

Officials suspect that it might be the same tiger which killed another farmer Doddaningaiah (53) on October 31, going by the proximity of the place where the farmer was killed to the location where the tiger was rescued on Saturday.

Guj ATS arrests 3 plotting attacks in country

Guj ATS, from Page 1

Saiyed was intercepted ahead of the Adalaj Toll Plaza on the Ahmedabad–Mehsana Road while travelling in a car. "From his possession, two Glock pistols, one Beretta pistol, 30 live cartridges, and approximately 4 litres of castor oil stored in a 10-litre plastic container were recovered," ATS said in a statement.

During his interrogation, Saiyed is alleged to have said he procured the weapons from "a deserted location near Kalol".

The cache of weapons, procured from Hanumangadh in Rajasthan, is alleged to have been dropped there by two persons identified as Azad Suleman Sheikh and Mohammad Suhail Mohammad Saleem, both of whom were arrested from Banaskantha district in Gujarat.

Shaikh, 20, is a tailor from Kairana in Shamli district while Saleem is a 23-year-old student from Nighasan in Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh. ATS officials said that Saiyed was working on the instruction of a person named Abu Khadija, a resident of Afghanistan and associated with ISKP.

Saiyed was allegedly in contact with several individuals from Pakistan as well.

"To execute a major terrorist attack, Saiyed had been preparing a highly lethal poison named 'ryzin' (ricin). For this purpose, he had already begun necessary research, procured equipment, raw materials, and initiated the initial chemical processing required for its preparation," ATS said in the statement.

When asked if there were any specific location the suspects wanted to target, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Sunil Joshi told *DH* that investigation was on to find those targets.

During preliminary interrogation, ATS came to know that the suspects "had conducted reconnaissance of several sensitive locations in Lucknow, Delhi, and Ahmedabad". During questioning, the suspects are alleged to have revealed that the source of their weapons was their handler who had sent it from the Pakistan border via drone. The accused, Saiyed, was produced before the court, which sent them to police custody till November 17.

Campaigning ends; all eyes now on Nov 14

Bihar, from Page 1

The first phase of the election for 121 seats saw a record voter percentage of 65.1%.

This was the first Assembly election being held after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) was carried out by the Election Commission in Bihar. As a consequence, the eligible voters' numbers came down from 7.9 crore to 7.4 crore. This was also one of the reasons for the high percentage of voter turnout.

'We are a body of individuals': RSS chief

RSS, from Page 1

He added that the organisation, founded in 1925, also did not register under the British Law against which the then "sarsanghchalak was fighting at that time".

The funding and the status of the RSS, the ideological mentor of the ruling BJP at the Centre, as an unregistered organisation, have often come in for scrutiny from Congress and its allies. The critics have sought to know why the Sangh is not registered under a statutory framework like a trust or a society.

After the first lecture series held in Delhi last month to mark the centenary year of RSS's foundation, the two-day event of the RSS chief in Bengaluru comes against the backdrop of Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge's recent statement seeking a ban on RSS activities in public institutions and public places.

Following up on the demand, the Karnataka government passed an order that private organisations must seek prior permission before conducting their activities on government premises. The move, which also applied to the RSS, was stayed by the high court. AICC president and Priyank's father, Mallikarjun Kharge, also recently said that his "personal opinion" was that the RSS should be banned.

Referring to the three occasions when the RSS was banned in independent India (1948, 1975, and 1992), the RSS chief said: "And each time the courts dismissed the ban and made RSS a legal organisation. So many times, questions are asked in the Assembly, Parliament, statements are given – pro or anti-RSS, all this is not without recognition. Legally, factually, we are an organisation."

Responding to a question whether Muslims are allowed in the RSS, Bhagwat said anyone can come to the Sangh as long as they can "keep their separateness out" and assimilate with the others as "son of Bharat Mata".

"No Brahmin is allowed in Sangh. No other caste is allowed in Sangh. No Muslim is allowed, no Christian is allowed, no Shaiva, no Shakhta. Only Hindus are allowed. So, people of different denominations, Muslims, Christians, any denomination — they can come to Sangh, keep your separateness out. Your speciality is welcome but when you come inside shakha, you come as son of Bharat Mata, member of Hindu society (sic)."

On the allegation that the RSS respected only the saffron flag and didn't recognise the tricolour, he said the outfit always stood by the national flag. "Since its creation, Sangh has always stood by, respected, offered tributes and protected this Tiranga Dhwaj. It was first hoisted in 1933," Bhagwat said.

Claiming that the tricolour got entangled and stopped half-mast when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru hoisted it in Faizpur, Maharashtra in 1933, Bhagwat said that an RSS swayamsevak, Kishan Singh Rajput, had climbed the pole and hoisted the tricolour.

Public could gain access to B'luru lake, thanks to survey

B'luru lake, from Page 1

While the total encroached area measures barely 1.2 metres in width along the drain's length, its location is crucial as the stormwater drain meets Sarjapur Road, the downstream of lower Ambalipura Lake. Clearing this chokepoint, local residents insisted, could help restore the natural flow and also create a direct public entry to the lake.

Encroachments at the downstream stretch, especially between lower Ambalipura and Iblur lakes, had also led to flooding of Sarjapur road about three years ago.

"The overflow had even flooded one of the apartments," said a resident, urging authorities to reopen the blocked drain and restore connection between lakes.

The survey also found encroachments on the upstream side of lower Ambalipura Lake, which connects to the upper Ambalipura Lake.

Among these were two villas, a public road and an apartment building that had encroached upon the drain or buffer area.

A lake behind closed gates

Ambalipura Lake, off Sarjapur Road, has remained inaccessible to the public despite being maintained by the BBMP's Lake Division — now merged into the Bengaluru South City Corporation after the BBMP's dissolution. Apartment complexes surrounding the lake have fenced it off, using it as an extension of their landscaped gardens and a "private water body".

Lake volunteers have welcomed the latest survey findings, insisting the authorities clear encroachments and provide public access to the waterbody. They also point to clear disregard to buffer zone norms around the storm water drain and the lake.

KN Ramesh, Commissioner of the Bengaluru South City Corporation, said the survey report would soon be reviewed.

"It may have been submitted to the erstwhile BBMP, and has not yet been handed over to us during the transition period," he said.

"I will review the encroachment findings."

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at one or two places over Coastal and South Interior Karnataka & dry weather prevailed over North Interior Karnataka.

Forecast Nov 10: Mainly clear sky. Mist very likely during early morning hours in some areas.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	28.8	15.2	0.0
Bidar	28.4	13.8	0.0
Vijayapura	30.2	12.0	0.0
Dharwad	29.4	15.0	0.0
Haveri	31.0	15.8	0.0
Kalaburagi	32.2	17.0	0.0
Raichur	30.0	16.0	0.0
COASTAL			
Honnavar	32.5	22.0	0.0
Karwar	33.8	22.1	0.0
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	29.4	23.2	tr

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	NA
Bengaluru	27.6	16.2	0.0
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	--	--	--
Chikkamagaluru	--	--	--
Chitradurga	29.0	14.6	0.0
Davangere	28.0	13.0	0.0
Hassan	32.6	NA	NA
Mysuru	NA	NA	NA
Madikeri	--	--	--
Kolar	27.2	13.0	0.0

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	26.0	12.0	NIL
Kolkata	29.0	19.0	NIL
Mumbai	30.0	24.0	NA
Chennai	30.0	27.0	NA
Pune	29.0	15.0	NA
Hyderabad	28.0	18.0	NA
Th'puram	29.0	24.0	NIL

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OBITUARY

Shri R. Raghunathan Retd.Scientist, ADE
DOB: 24/11/1949 DOD: 08/11/2025
Last rites: 09:30 am on 10/11/2025 at 201-A, Atma Apts, 10th Main Rd, Malleswaram, Bengaluru-3, Ph.: 9341275235

2nd YEAR REMEMBRANCE

Shri. N.R.G. KRISHNAN
28-05-1932 - 10-11-2023
Today and everyday you are in our thoughts and in our hearts. We miss you very much.
Deeply missed by
Lakshmi Krishnan
Manikantan and Priya
Padmini and TS Gopalakrishnan
Malini and A P Srinivasan
Aditya , Anirudh, Abhinav, Nityashree , Mukund Krishnan
All The Staff members
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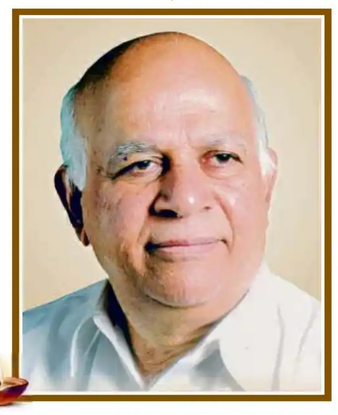

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Founder : B.T. Patil Group of Industries, Belgaum
20.06.1933 - 30.10.2025
A devoted husband, a caring and proud father, a loving sibling, a generous father-in-law, and a deeply affectionate grandfather - but above all, a true friend whose warmth, kindness, and grace touched every life he came across.
His lifetime mantra : *"Next to impossible is possible"*
He met every challenge head-on, and lived each day rooted in the values passed down from his parents. His legacy in business and community service is profound, and the mark he has left will continue to inspire generations to come.
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* Chougule Family, Kolhapur
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RIVER BARRIER BREACHED

1971 Bangla war hero recounts daring 'heli-bridge' that broke Pakistan's will

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru Prayana, a community-driven platform, hosted the inaugural edition of 'Valiant Veterans', a new community initiative designed for veterans to share their real experiences of courage, leadership and service to the nation.

The first session, held at Higginbothams book store on MG Road, featured Squadron Leader Pushp Vaid, a decorated Indian Air Force officer who played a key role in the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War.

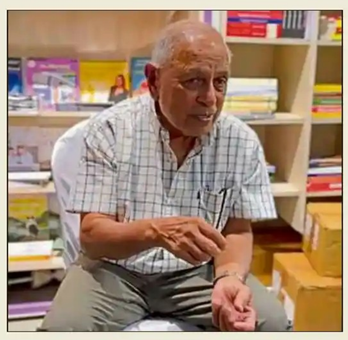
Vaid detailed the critical, 10-day operation in which his unit, attached to the Indian Army's IV Corps, undertook the major task of establishing a "heli-bridge" across Meghna River.

This river, the veteran explained, was considered by the Pakistan Army to be an unbreakable natural barrier.

"The Pakistanis thought we would never cross the Meghna River. Never, not even imagined that we would cross the river. So they were sitting happily down there," Vaid recounted.

He credited the visionary leadership of General Sagat Singh, who, after witnessing initial successes, declared the path to victory lay in Dhaka, accessible only by crossing the river.

The sheer scale of the operation was staggering: the unit moved nearly 5,000 soldiers and 760 tonnes of equipment, transforming a geographical obstacle into a critical advantage. This lightning-fast movement led directly to the collapse of resistance.



Squadron leader (retired) Pushp Vaid speaks at the inaugural edition of 'Valiant Veterans' on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"On the first day itself, then Pakistani General (AAK) Niazi sent a message, that these people have crossed the Meghna, and we have no resistance, and I want to surrender," he revealed.

Reflecting on flying non-stop missions under pressure, often alone and under enemy fire, the Vir Chakra awardee stated, "Danger never crossed my mind. It never even occurred to me that anything is dangerous. My only aim was to make sure I reached the right place and deliver the essential equipment they needed, nothing else."

Vaid emphasised the cohesive effort that led to victory in just 13 days. His message to young people was one of civic responsibility: "If you love your country, nobody should throw garbage in the first place."

Raksha Nagaraj, founder of Bengaluru Prayana, said: "Valiant Veterans is our effort to create space for stories that often stay hidden inside uniforms and history books. Listening to Sqn Ldr Pushp Vaid reminded us of the courage and leadership that shaped our nation. This is just the beginning, we want Bengaluru to hear many more such voices".

Bengaluru Prayana plans to continue 'Valiant Veterans' as an ongoing series, hosting Indian Armed Forces veterans who will share their real-life experiences with the city.

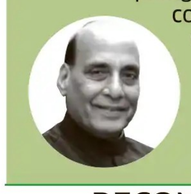
COUNTER

"Three types of 'vote chori' (vote theft) are going on - deleting names of electors from electoral rolls, stopping people from casting their ballots, and fake voting.

Dipankar Bhattacharya
CPI(ML) Liberation general secretary

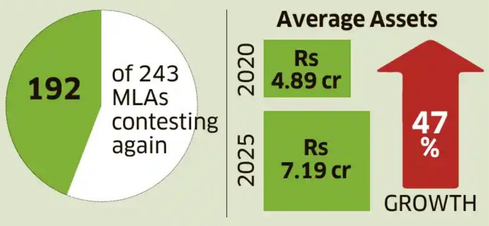
V/S

The Congress and RJD are trying to divide the society based on caste, creed and religion. This election is a fight between good governance and 'jungle raj' (lawlessness). The same people who plunged Bihar into an era of caste conflict and massacres are now seeking votes. People must remain alert about such forces."



Rajnath Singh
Defence minister

RECONTESTING MLAS, RISING ASSETS



Average Assets of Recontesting MLAs

62	BJP: **Rs 3.89 cr** to **Rs 6.72 cr**	
46	RJD: **Rs 5.22 cr** to **Rs 7.57 cr**	
41	JD(U): **Rs 7.40 cr** to **Rs 9.86 cr**	
12	Congress: **Rs 7.64 cr** to **Rs 10.04 cr**	
11	CPI(ML)L: **Rs 43.52 L** to **Rs 80.42 L**	

(Source: Association for Democratic Reforms)

Poll diary

MPs question railways over trains run during elections

Rajya Sabha MPs Kapil Sibal and A D Singh on Sunday alleged that four special trains carrying around 6,000 people were run from Haryana to Bihar on November 3, and sought clarification from the railway minister on their purpose and funding during the Assembly polls. Responding to the charge, the Railway Ministry said that during the festival season, it is operating around 12,000 special trains monitored through war rooms at divisional, zonal, and board levels.

'Non-serious' Rahul enjoying jungle safari amid polls: BJP

The BJP on Sunday called Congress leader Rahul Gandhi a "non-serious" politician, saying he is enjoying jungle safari in Madhya Pradesh while elections are underway in Bihar. "Rahul Gandhi says the EC is not impartial, but in reality, he does not take politics seriously," MP minister Vishvas Sarang said in Bhopal. Gandhi, who arrived in Pachmarhi in MP to address a training camp for district Congress presidents, visited the Satpura Tiger Reserve in the morning.

Bihar will be liberated from 'trouble-engine govt': Cong

The Congress on Sunday accused the BJP-JD(U) of "looting" Bihar for the past 20 years through corruption, and exuded confidence that the people of the state will be liberated from this "trouble-engine government" through their vote. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh claimed the people of Bihar are paying the price for the "loot, corruption, and negligence" that has persisted for the past 20 years.

CONSTITUENCY WATCH

CHANPATIA (WEST CHAMPARAN)

UMAKANT SINGH
BJP
2020: Won

MANISH KASHYAP
JAN SURAAJ PARTY
2020: Did not contest

Kishor's Bihar bid echoes AAP's 2022 Guj script

Jan Suraaj party has sparked interest, but it remains to be seen whether the enthusiasm will translate into votes

FROM THE GROUND

SATISH JHA
NAWADA/PATNA, DHNS

Apart from their bright yellow colour, there are striking similarities between political consultant-turned-politician Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj party in Bihar and Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which contested the 2022 Gujarat Assembly elections.

Like Kishor's party, the AAP generated a buzz both on the ground and in the media. Its rallies across the state drew large crowds, similar to Kishor's. Kejriwal's aggressive campaign on better education, free electricity and the slogan of a "new Gujarat" shifted the spotlight away from the Opposition Congress and even the BJP.

In the end, however, the ruling BJP secured a historic 156 seats in the 182-member House, its highest-ever tally. The AAP, which won only five seats, played a significant role by splitting Congress votes in as many as 35 constituencies—ultimately benefiting the BJP and contributing to its record performance.

Three-way contest?

With the campaign for Bihar's second and final phase ending on Sunday, the key question is whether the contest is truly a three-way race, or which of the two coalitions — the I.N.D.I.A bloc or the NDA—Kishor's party is hurting more. Or whether the outcome will echo what happened in the 2022 Gujarat Assembly polls. On the ground, *DH* found Kishor emerging as a favourite among voters who might otherwise have supported the BJP.

At Patna's newly built Jay Prakash Narayan International Airport, Pankaj Chaudhary, a first-time voter waiting for his SpiceJet flight to Ahmedabad, spoke candidly after some prodding about his choice.

"I voted for the first time this election, and it was to support a change in government. While I ideologically lean towards the BJP, the Prashant Kishor-led Jan Suraaj party has offered a new and better alternative. Their manifesto is unique, and it shows that even politically stagnant states like Bihar can look forward to real change," he said. Chaudhary is preparing for his Chartered Accountancy in Ahmedabad.

Another co-passenger, a businessman from the Sonepur Assembly constituency in Saran district, said, "Prashant Kishor is a good option, but people are having trouble trusting him this time around. Personally, I have full faith in him. As for the Nitish-BJP combination, Nitish ji is no longer at that level, which is why I support Kishor." Asked who he would have backed in Kishor's absence, he replied, "BJP".

During visits to districts such as Patna, Muzaffarpur, Jehanabad, Arwal, Gaya, and Nawada over the past week, the Jan Suraaj was found to have created a buzz among young and aspirational voters, cutting across party lines.

What remained uncertain, however, was how much of this enthusiasm would actually translate into votes. In most places, Kishor's supporters were drawn from the NDA, particularly the BJP.

In Nawada, minutes after Kishor's roadshow, a group of businessmen voiced strong support.

"Prashant Kishor is much better than other leaders. Right now, the Jan Suraaj party is leading here," said one in broken English.

'New Bihar' promise

Influential, educated and aspirational voters like them — traditionally BJP and JD(U) supporters — see hope in Kishor's promises of a "New Bihar", focused on education, jobs and ending migration. His relentless campaigns and yatras over the past two years have also earned sympathy.

"PK (as he is popularly known in Bihar) has staked everything. He is only talking about improving Bihar, so he should at least be given a chance," said Rajkumar Yadav, a daily labourer from Telia village in Muzaffarpur.

While the party has generated a buzz across caste lines, Kishor's biggest challenge is converting that hype into votes. His party lacks the organisational strength and loyal booth-level workers that the I.N.D.I.A bloc and the NDA command.

Jan Suraaj chief Prashant Kishor during a roadshow in East Champaran district on Sunday. PTI

BUZZ FACTOR

- Kishor's party draws parallels with AAP's Gujarat campaign
- Both parties created buzz on ground, attracting large crowds
- Jan Suraaj party popular among voters who might otherwise back BJP
- Converting hype into votes remains the challenge

Shah tops rally tally as leaders wrap poll push

Home minister addressed 34 meetings altogether

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The results of the Bihar Assembly elections will have a bearing on national politics either way, prompting top leaders on both sides — Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi — to hold 15 rallies over the past fortnight.

However, the record for the most election rallies after October 23, the last date for withdrawal of nominations for the second phase, belongs to Home Minister Amit Shah, who addressed 34 meetings, including a few digitally after rain disrupted the campaign schedule.

From the BJP side, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held 18 election programmes, while party chief JP Nadda addressed eight. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge held three programmes, including one in Gaya, and General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra addressed 13. Both Nitish Kumar of the JD(U) and Tejashwi Yadav of the RJD also held several election events.

The campaign for the second and final phase of the elections ended on Sunday evening, with polling scheduled for Tuesday. Counting of votes in all 243 constituencies, including the 121 that went to the polls on November 6, will take place on November 14.

On the last day of campaigning, Modi did not visit Bihar, but Rahul, Shah and Rajnath were in the state to give a final push to their blocs.

Rahul Gandhi addressed rallies in Purnia and Kishanganj, Shah held programmes in Sasaram and Arwal, and Rajnath campaigned in Goh and Mohania.

Modi began his campaign early on October 24 with a visit to Sitamarhi and to the residence of socialist icon Karpoori Thakur, while Rahul entered the Bihar campaign trail on October 29 with two joint rallies with Tejashwi, the I.N.D.I.A bloc's chief ministerial face, in Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga.

Both leaders shared some common destinations during their campaigns, including Begusarai, Bhagalpur and Aurangabad.

CAMPAIGN BLITZ

- Modi and Rahul each held 15 rallies in the past fortnight
- Rajnath Singh addressed 18 programmes; JP Nadda 8
- Mallikarjun Kharge held 3 rallies; Priyanka 13
- Nitish Kumar and Tejashwi also campaigned extensively

Supporters gather at a rally by LoP in the Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, during Bihar Assembly elections, in Kishanganj. PTI

Mahagathbandhan will form govt if elections are fair: Rahul

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the Mahagathbandhan was "100 per cent" certain to form the government in Bihar if there was no "vote theft". He was addressing rallies in Kishanganj and Purnia on Sunday.

The charge of vote theft has become a flashpoint in Bihar after the Election Commission suspended the Assistant Returning Officer of Sarairanjan constituency and filed an FIR against him, following the discovery of VVPAT slips scattered near a college in Samastipur district on Saturday.

Adding to the controversy, a video of senior BJP leader and former Rajya Sabha MP Rakesh Sinha casting his vote in Begusarai went viral, along with another clip showing him voting earlier this year in New Delhi during the Assembly election there.

"On the one hand, genuine voters were barred from voting on November 6 as their names had been struck off the rolls. On the other hand, senior BJP leaders have voted both in New Delhi and in Bihar. The Election Commission, which insists a person can vote only at one place, has taken no action against the ruling party leader and has not responded to my charges of vote theft in Haryana," Rahul said, as campaigning for the second and final phase of the election drew to a close on Sunday evening.

He said the Bihar election was a contest between two ideologies, claiming that the RSS and BJP sought to divide people while the Congress aimed to unite them. He alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was spreading animosity and encouraging Bihar's youth to focus on making reels for income, whereas the Congress wanted young people to study, qualify and secure jobs.

"PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah can go anywhere, but eventually they will be caught for vote theft," Rahul said, questioning why the EC had not responded to his allegations.

"If there is no vote-chori in Bihar, then mark my words, the I.N.D.I.A bloc will 100 per cent form the government here," he asserted, as he wrapped up his poll campaign on Sunday.

FRAUD CHARGE

- Rahul alleges genuine voters were barred during first phase polls
- Accuses EC of ignoring his charges of vote theft in Haryana
- Warns Modi and Amit Shah will eventually be caught for vote theft

Shah charges Oppn with trying to build 'corridor for infiltrators'

SASARAM/ARWAL (BIHAR), PTI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday charged the I.N.D.I.A bloc with trying to build a "corridor for infiltrators", unlike Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who wanted to "set up an industrial corridor".

Addressing back-to-back rallies in Sasaram and Arwal towns of Bihar, on the final day of campaign for the second and final phase of assembly elections, the BJP leader also promised a future that "mortar shells that will be dropped on Pakistan will be manufactured at an ordnance factory in this state".

BIHAR VOTES

"Recently, Rahul and Lalu's son (Tejashwi Yadav) took out a 'Voter Adhikar Yatra'. It was not aimed at bringing about any improvement in the lives of the poor living in Bihar, the Dalits and the EBCs. It was aimed at protecting infiltrators," Shah alleged.

The former BJP president said that "the opposition's vote bank politics has led them to make attempts for building a ghuspaithiya (infiltrator) corridor, unlike Narendra Modi, who is setting up an industrial corridor".

"When the government at the Centre was helmed by Manmohan Singh, Sonia Gandhi and Lalu, terrorists struck at will on our soil. In contrast, now we are beating up the terrorists inside their homes," the Union minister asserted.

FROZEN IN DECAY

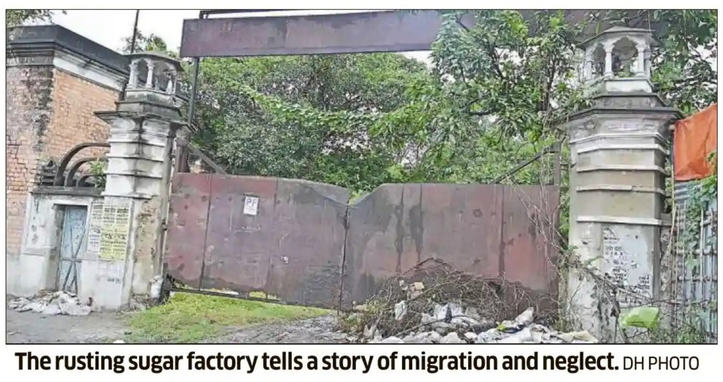
Motipur's silent mill haunts voters every poll season

ASHISH PANDEY
MOTIPUR (MUZAFFARPUR), DHNS

The rusting old gates of the Motipur Sugar Mill in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district have been locked for decades now. The iron gates, which once saw hundreds of trucks and wagons passing through them every day, now serve as a grim reminder of what once was the industrial heartbeat of north Bihar.

Time seems frozen behind these locked gates. Cracked industrial chimneys rise above machines now entangled in weeds, while the pin-drop silence tells its own story — one of decay, despair, deceit and unfulfilled promises.

For the people of Motipur, the sugar mill is not just an abandoned factory. It is a story of broken livelihoods and faded hopes, and the old wounds resurface every election season.



The rusting sugar factory tells a story of migration and neglect. DH PHOTO

"We had a very tough childhood after the factory shut down. The family's only source of income suddenly stopped. We barely managed to put sufficient food on the plate, let alone think of school education. Life changed overnight, and we still feel the pain of those days," says Surendra Shah, whose father worked in the factory until it closed. "The day the mill shut, it felt as if life went out of the town. Almost every house had someone employed here."

Set up in the early 1930s by a Kolkata-based industrialist, Motipur Sugar Mill was once among the biggest sugar factories in Bihar, employing thousands directly and many more indirectly. While delayed payments to farmers were common across most sugar mills in the state, Motipur was further plagued by mismanagement and poorly maintained machinery. By the mid-1990s, the factory had sunk deep into losses and eventually shut down.

With the crushers silent, the town's growth too seemed to grind to a halt. Madan Mahto, who ran a tea stall in the 1990s, recalled, "Motipur's market used to buzz during the crushing season. After the mill closed, it was difficult to send money home to provide for my children."

The guard stationed inside the mill compound said there has been encroachment and illegal occupation on factory land. He often spots and chases away thieves attempting to steal iron and steel from the rusting machinery.

Scan QR code to watch video

Locals add that much of the mill's property has already been looted by petty thieves, leaving behind only the parts too heavy or difficult to move. When *DH* visited the site, the scene confirmed their account.

Rajesh Shah said that leaders across parties have promised to restart the mill and restore the town's past glory, but nothing has materialised on the ground.

"The day Motipur Sugar Mill reopens will be the day people start believing in government promises again," says Mahadev Prasad, a retired schoolteacher and sugarcane grower. According to him, the closure of such industrial units is a major reason why Bihar has witnessed large-scale migration of workers to Punjab, Haryana and more recently, to the south.

Rahul late to Cong camp, does 10 push-ups as 'punishment'

NARMADAPURAM (MP), PTI: Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's late arrival at a Congress training camp in Pachmarhi in Madhya Pradesh by two minutes on Sunday earned him a 'punishment' of ten push-ups, a party leader said.

Rahul Gandhi

Congress leaders said Gandhi complied with the "ten push-ups punishment rule" set by AICC Training Department head Sachin Rao for participants if they arrived late at the camp underway under the Sangathan Srajan Abhiyan (SSA). The drive will end on November 11.

"This is nothing new or surprising for our leader, Rahulji, to do. In our camp, we follow the discipline strictly. There is a democracy in the party where all members are equal and treated as equals. There is no bossism in our party like in the BJP", MP Congress media coordinator Abhinav Barolia said while confirming the "push-up punishment".

Gandhi later flew to Bihar for campaigning, Barolia added.

When contacted, Rao said he didn't have the liberty to talk about what happened in the camp.

This was the second visit of the Leader of the Opposition to MP in five months as part of an exercise to strengthen the party organisation.

The SSA was announced during the extended Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting in Belagavi held in December last year. The drive was launched on June 3 this year from Bhopal.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Climate summit focus on implementation

The 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC), which starts in Belém, Brazil, on Monday, has been described as the "implementation COP". It is expected to focus on how to put existing climate agreements into practice and realise commitments already made. New promises may be forthcoming but the priority will be to find ways and means to reach goals already set. In a decade after the Paris Climate Agreement came into force, the world has not moved much in implementation, but climate change problems have worsened. Even if all the present plans fructify, the world will not achieve the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold set in Paris. There has been no reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions in the past decade.

At the heart of the fight against climate change are policies of mitigation and their implementation. Developing countries need technological and financial assistance from the developed world to achieve this objective. At COP29, the richer countries had offered the poorer countries at least 300 billion dollars a year to help them tackle climate change. This is much less than what the developing world needs and the promise has in any case not been fulfilled. A recent 'Baku to Belém Roadmap' prepared on the basis of wide consultations had projected climate finance of the order of 300 billion dollars a year, to reach 1.3 trillion dollars by 2035. The expenditure on governance and development and high state of debt make it difficult for poor countries to spend on climate action. If COP29 at Baku in Azerbaijan mentioned the broad commitments of the rich world, a road map will now have to be prepared for their delivery, especially because many developed countries are reviewing their multilateral commitments.

US is a notable absentee at COP30, opening today in Belem, Brazil

While about 200 countries will attend COP30, the US will be a notable absence. The withdrawal of the US from climate negotiations will be a serious handicap as it is the second largest emitter of greenhouse gases and had a key role in climate finance initiatives. China, the European Union (EU), and the host country Brazil are expected to be active at the meet to take the negotiations forward. India is the third largest emitter but has low per capita emissions and a vulnerable population. It will have a major role in the negotiations. COP30 is expected to work on an action agenda of 30 key goals which will be on the table. At the Leaders' Summit before the meet, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said: "It's no longer time for negotiations. It's time for implementation, implementation and implementation." That may also be taken as a warning.

SC concerns over POCSO overreach

The Supreme Court flagged an important issue last week when it expressed concern over the misuse of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. It was hearing a petition seeking compulsory sex education in schools and sensitisation of children to anti-rape laws. The court observed that the Act was being misused in cases concerning consensual relationships between adolescents. The matter has engaged the court's attention even in the past when it heard cases against adolescents under the POCSO Act. Another bench of the court is currently hearing a petition challenging the blanket criminalisation of consensual sexual activity between adolescents aged 16 to 18 years. There is an ongoing debate in the country over the matter. Former Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud has said that the cases "posed difficult questions" to the judges and the matter should be considered by the legislature in the light of relevant research about adolescent healthcare.

The POCSO Act was enacted to protect children from sexual offences, as a special law was thought necessary. It serves a purpose and has brought many offenders to book. But the law, considered an essential measure of protection, has created problems at the level of implementation. It is sometimes weaponised and used to punish natural relationships. According to the law, a girl under 18 cannot give consent for sex in any circumstance. So a sexual relationship with a girl of that age is an offence. In the past few years, social mores and the nature of relationships among young people have changed a lot. Youngsters fall in love, explore the extent of their relationships, and sometimes elope. But the consensual affair sometimes traps the boy in a legal minefield and leads him to jail.

The law criminalises teen romance and traps boys in a legal minefield

Teenage romance becomes statutory rape in such cases and some of the boys' best years, and perhaps also their prospects, are spoiled. Boys from marginalised groups are disproportionately affected because they are unable to mount a legal defence. Girls' families often vindictively pursue cases for the sake of "honour" and raise rape charges against boys. Extraneous factors, such as land disputes and differences among families, have given rise to false cases under the POCSO Act. There is need for a fresh look at the law to ensure that it is not misused. One suggestion is to lower the age of consent to 16. But the government has opposed any lowering of the age of consent, as also the idea of making exceptions in cases of adolescent relationships. While the POCSO Act should remain a means of protection for minors, ways should be found to prevent its misuse, as the court has suggested.

ILLEGALITY IN PLAIN SIGHT

When law is ignored at Court's gate

The manual sewer cleaning incident outside the Supreme Court is another reminder of how policies look great on paper but often falter in practice

MRINALINI NAIK AND UJJWAL BHARDWAJ

It is rare for the Supreme Court of India to confront, quite literally at its own gates, the very injustice it has spent decades trying to erase. Yet, this is what happened recently when an intervention application filed in the case of Dr Balram Singh vs Union of India revealed that workers were being employed to clean sewer lines manually outside Gate F of the court itself.

On September 18, 2025, in an order regarding the same, the Supreme Court imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh on Delhi's Public Works Department (PWD) for engaging workers in manual sewer cleaning and also warned that an FIR will be registered against concerned officials if violations continue. The cost has to be deposited to the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK).

The irony was impossible to miss, a practice banned by law since 1993, reinforced by the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act [MS Act] 2013 and repeatedly condemned by the court, was unfolding in full public view on the doorstep of the highest judicial body.

The Balram Singh litigation is part of a series of petitions that have tried to bridge the yawning gap between India's legal framework and its lived reality for sanitation workers. The court has consistently held that forcing a person to enter a sewer without protective equipment is not just illegal, but a violation of the fundamental right to dignity and life under Article 21.

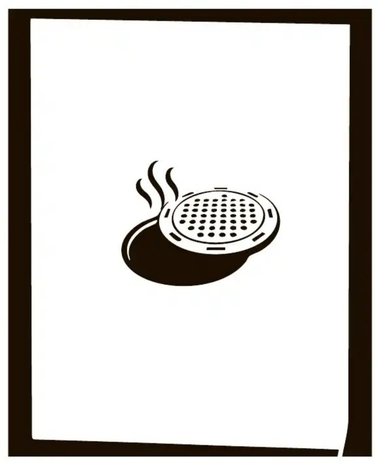
Despite stern pronouncements and statutory prohibitions, the practice continues. According to government data, 377 people have died of manual scavenging between 2019 and 2023. The persistence of manual scavenging is not due to a lack of law but a lack of enforcement.

Municipal bodies and departments continue to employ or contract manual cleaners without consequence. Orders from Delhi often fail to filter down to state and local levels.

Sanitation involves multiple agencies like the PWD, local bodies, contractors, each quick to shift blame. This diffusion of accountability ensures no single officer feels the heat.

Deaths in sewers are routinely recorded as accidents rather than crimes, and prosecutions under the MS Act, 2013, are rare. Without criminal liability for officials, compliance remains optional.

The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK), though conceived as a watchdog, has often struggled with limited powers and resources. Yet, it plays a vital role in documenting deaths, monitoring rehabilitation schemes, and providing a national platform for sanitation workers' grievances. The Supreme



Court's decision to route penalties and relief through the NCSK underscores its importance.

NCSK was originally constituted as a statutory body in 1994 under the NCSK Act. However, after the Act ceased to have effect from 2004, the tenure of NCSK was extended as a non-statutory body from time to time. It is currently under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, extended up to 2028.

Strengthening NCSK by granting it statutory permanence, investigative authority, and budgetary support could make it the pivot of accountability.

A question of dignity, not just safety

Too often, the debate is framed in terms of occupational hazard. But the court has reminded us that manual scavenging is not merely dangerous work, it is degrading work, rooted in caste hierarchies that strip individuals of dignity.

Manual scavengers not only face health issues, making them susceptible to diseases like cholera, hepatitis, tetanus etc., besides being at serious risk of asphyxiation in septic tanks, but also social stigma and are treated as untouchables.

The social stigma often causes them shame, low self-esteem and stress due to which many of them resort to alcohol and drug abuse. Their daily wage is also often below minimum pay and women workers face further exploitation through sexual harassment and gender pay gap.

Ending it, therefore, is not only about mechanisation and safety gear but also about ensuring alternative livelihoods, social mobility, and rehabilitation in real sense.

The central sector NAMASTE (National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem) Scheme is an excellent positive step by the government aiming at formalisation of the sanitation sector and providing sustainable livelihood options to workers including through Self Help Groups (SHGs).

The core goal of the scheme is to replace manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks with mechanised systems, preventing direct contact with hazardous waste. The workers are also provided with safety gears and health insurance cover under Ayushman Bharat. The scheme promotes skill development and safety training for sanitation workers.

Recently, the Ministry of Social Justice has also launched the nationwide 'Waste Picker Enumeration App' for profiling waste pickers under the NAMASTE scheme.

Yet, the discovery of sewer cleaning right outside the Supreme Court is a reminder that policies on paper can often falter in practice. If illegality can flourish unchecked at the threshold of the court, one can imagine the scale of violations across small towns and villages, away from the gaze of cameras or petitioners.

The court has done its part by reaffirming constitutional principles and threatening consequences. But judges cannot run municipalities. The real test lies in whether the executive machinery will enforce laws and schemes, allocate resources for mechanisation, and hold errant officials criminally liable. India cannot claim to be a modern democracy while consigning some of its citizens to die in its gutters.

(The writers are advocates practising in the Supreme Court of India)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

The Burton enigma

A simple twitch of his eyebrow could convey a hundred unspoken words

RANJAN DAS GUPTA

International cinema has seldom witnessed an actor quite like Richard Burton. He was neither as unpredictable and versatile as Marlon Brando nor as debonair and stylised as Cary Grant.

Richard Burton attended the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, London, but never allowed theatricals to dominate his screen performances. No wonder Sophia Loren, Ava Gardner and Elizabeth Taylor—his legendary co-stars—always enjoyed working with him.

I still remember, as a schoolboy in 1975, our English teacher, Joseph Kodaikanal, making us listen to Burton's recording of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*. His diction as he recited, "*Water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink*," gave me and my classmates goose pimples. I became a Burton fan after hearing that British Council recording and later watching *Where Eagles Dare*.

My fondness for Burton matched my admiration for Gregory Peck, Charlton Heston and Robert Mitchum. In Burton I noticed a distinct ability to lend every character a touch of class. Blessed with a commanding screen presence, he overcame his relative lack of height through superb, method-oriented performances.

In the mid-1980s, after watching De Sica's masterpiece *The Voyage*, starring Burton and Sophia Loren, I was simply overwhelmed. As Cesare, the husband of Adriana, a woman with heart ailments, Burton delivered a performance steeped in emotion yet marked by exceptional control. Loren matched him in every frame with her inimitable intensity.

I could not initially digest the fact that Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor married twice and divorced each other. Later, after reading more about them, I could empathise. Yet, Burton and Taylor maintained their differences without hampering the silent regard they had for each other.

This was evident in their performances in *Cleopatra* and *Boom*. I wondered how they matched expressions, delivered dialogues with measured modulation and never went overboard. The same was true of *The Night of the Iguana*, in which Burton delivered a performance of a lifetime opposite the brilliant Ava Gardner. A simple twitch of his eyebrow could convey a hundred unspoken words.

I often compare, in my mind, Sir Laurence Olivier, Richard Burton and Peter O'Toole. I found my answer while watching *Beckett*: Burton and 'O'Toole were equally brilliant, neither attempting to overshadow the other.

The same balance was evident in Carlo Ponti's *Massacre in Rome*. Marcello Mastroianni, playing an Italian priest, was a perfect foil to Burton's ruthless Nazi commander. In an interview with *The London Times*, Mastroianni said his greatest on-screen challenge was to "histrionically combat Richard Burton".

I share the view of many that in war sagas such as *Raid On Rommel*, *The Desert Rats* or *The Wild Geese*, Burton was effortless. But I was most moved by the control of his eyes and the restraint in his delivery in *The Assassination of Trotsky* and *1984*. Burton emoted without artifice and was unfailingly precise in the tightest of shots. As his centenary dawns, I join countless admirers in wondering why, despite seven nominations, Richard Burton never won an Oscar.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ISRO's achievements go far beyond elite privilege

This refers to 'Rocket Men: Space for the few, wasteland for the rest?' (Nov 9). While the article raises relevant concerns about inclusivity, the claim that India's space accomplishments serve only a few is misleading and overlooks the true spirit and achievements of ISRO. From its inception, ISRO has pursued space technology for the service of the common man, not for prestige or power. It is true that representation within scientific institutions must continue to broaden. However, to reduce ISRO's work to a privilege of the few ignores its profound societal impact and commitment to national self-reliance. Far from being a "wasteland," ISRO's space missions have become fertile ground for innovation, education, and inspiration across India. They have built bridges between science and society, inspiring young minds and strengthening India's technological confidence.

M Ravindra, Bengaluru

Shun freebies

Apropos 'Manifestoes have become ledgers of largesse' (Nov 9), while earlier manifestos were documents of social and economic vision for all-round development, the tendency to indiscriminately announce freebies has only helped to warp values and outlook of voters and society at large without fully understanding its long-term consequences. Politicians and people must understand the line between welfare measures and a blatant attempt at corrupting voters through freebies.

H R Bapu Satyanarayana, Mysuru

Plan better

The delay in Bengaluru's Pink Line Metro project is disappointing and frustrating for daily commuters. Just like the Yellow Line, the project now faces problems in getting trains on time due to supply and equipment issues. Every delay means more traffic, more pollution, and more wasted hours for citizens. BEML and the Metro authorities must work faster and plan better. Bengaluru's growth depends on a strong transport system. Metro projects should be completed on schedule, with clear accountability. The city cannot afford to wait forever for something that was meant to make life easier. Progress must show on the tracks, not just in reports and deadlines.

Armaan Ahmad, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

There is a lot of enthusiasm among the people and this enthusiasm always brings change. This kind of enthusiasm is seen only when people want to defeat someone with a heavy majority. The people of Bihar want to defeat the NDA and want the Mahagathbandhan to win...

Pawan Khera, Congress leader

...Try not to get involved in the business of prediction. It's a quick way to look like an idiot.

Warren Ellis

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Mamdani's script, Europe's lesson

European Left leaders look to his grassroots campaign in New York's mayoral election, sharply focused on affordability

K M RAKESH

The meteoric rise of left-leaning Zohran Mamdani from a New York State Assembly member to the mayor of New York has sparked huge interest among Europe's leftist parties, whose representatives rushed to get a first-hand understanding of the grassroots campaign carried out by the man who became the youngest mayor of the city, known as the heart of global capitalism.

The 34-year-old progressive Democrat, who registered a historic victory in the New York mayoral polls, has prompted leftist parties in Europe to take notes and explore the possibilities of replicating relevant parts of the Mamdani playbook back home.

Left parties from Germany, France and their larger grouping in the European Parliament rushed leaders to study the campaign and eventual victory of Mamdani, all along the frontrunner in the race.

European Left leaders' task at hand is to pick tips from Mamdani's grassroots campaign, sharply focused on the affordability issue burdening many European cities.

Die Linke (The Left), Germany's leftist party that performed remarkably well in the February elections, sent four senior office bearers. They are assigned to meet Mamdani's campaign managers and explore the possibility of borrowing the playbook or ideas from it for Berlin's state legislature elections next September.

The Left group of the European Parliament in Brussels sent its French co-chair Manon Aubry to New York over a week ago. Aubry, who represents France Unbowed, a French Left party, was part of the last leg of the Mamdani campaign.

This comes at a time when the Centre-Left received a massive booster shot with the performance of D66 — short for Democrats 66 — in the Dutch snap polls last week. D66, which tied at 26 seats each with 'Dutch Trump' Geert Wilder's far-right Party for Freedom, is most likely to form the next government with the help of coalition partners.

Progressives and Left-liberals are already celebrating since D66 leader Rob Jetten, 38, the openly gay man who campaigned on climate policy and affordable housing, is tipped to become the youngest Dutch prime minister.

The affordability question has found acceptance in the French capital as well.

Paris mayoral aspirant David Belliard of The Greens is one leader who followed the Mamdani campaign very closely, especially since the French capital too grapples with a high cost of living.

"Today we have our eyes fixed on New York," he commented on X, alluding to how Mamdani "showed that the left can be radical, concrete, and positive. Up to the challenge of the moment." Taking his cue from Mamdani's pitch, Belliard wants to provide emergency shelters for the 3,500 people who sleep on the streets of Paris.

With the twist in the pitch by raising the affordability question on behalf of the Parisian working class, Belliard hopes to do a Mamdani and elevate the prospects of The Greens, long relegated to the role of junior partner of the centre-Left mayors of Paris.

US President Donald Trump never minced words in calling Mamdani a "Communist", although Mamdani identifies himself as a "democratic socialist".

Mamdani's call for "a better distribution of wealth for God's children", as envisaged by Martin Luther King, has appealed to the European left-socialist ecosystem.

The Left party of Germany had startled everyone with its performance in the February elections by securing 8.8% of votes, up from 4.9% in 2021, to win 64 seats in Parliament.

The rise of the far-right Alternative for Deutschland (AfD) and its continuing popularity in successive popularity ratings has been a matter of concern in a country still struggling to shake off the shadow of the Nazis and the Holocaust that killed six million Jews and five million others.

The Left (not to be confused with Germany's party of the same name) is one of eight groups in the European Parliament that enjoys considerable say. With 46 members drawn from various leftist parties across the European Union, from where they are elected members, the group stands up for workers, the environment, feminism, peace and human rights.

Contrary to the general perception, especially in India, that all of Europe is true-blue capitalist, the overarching Left, including Communists, socialists and the Centre-Left parties, wields considerable influence in policymaking.

The policies of The Greens and social democrats across the European Union often dovetail with those of The Left, and they together are formidable, especially in matters related to trade unions, human rights and labour rights, among others.

(The writer is a senior journalist based in Berlin)

'Climate risks are rising but India's policy response remains fragmented'

The latest Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change Report 2024 reveals the "record-breaking" health impacts of climate change, including 1.7 million pollution-linked deaths in India as of 2022 and drought affecting 61% of the global land area in 2024. But action remains slow despite broad consensus on the impacts of climate change. Ahead of the 30th Conference of Parties (COP 30) beginning today, Jai Asundi discusses key issues.

Jai Asundi, *Executive Director-Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy, in conversation with* **Chiranjeevi Kulkarni**

THE DEEP TAKE

●How can we bridge the gap between scientific evidence on climate–health linkages and on-ground policy responses? What role can think tanks play?

Bridging the gap between scientific evidence on climate and health linkages and on-ground policy requires translating research into locally relevant, actionable insights. Despite strong evidence from initiatives such as the Lancet Countdown, policy responses in India remain fragmented because of weak data integration and limited cross-sector coordination.

Think tanks like CSTEP can play a pivotal role by localising global evidence, developing decision-support tools, co-creating pilot projects with state agencies, and building capacity across departments. For instance, we work with policy stakeholders to co-develop models and scenarios, which help them visualise the impacts of different decisions through simulations. We also bring disparate pieces of evidence together for holistic and system-level strategy-making.

●India's national action plan on climate change was launched in 2008. The government this August said states and UTs have prepared action plans. How prepared are state governments to interpret and act on climate–health data?

Research at the sub-national level is still uneven, with fragmented data systems and weak linkages between health, environment, and disaster management sectors. Few states have built analytical frameworks or surveillance mechanisms to track climate-health indicators. As a result, state plans often remain broad and under-implemented. They also lag behind, as evolving risks and scientific insights at sub-national levels are not generated periodically to inform decision-making.

However, with the help of think tanks like CSTEP, things are moving in the right direction. A wonderful example is Bengaluru, which has formulated a city action plan. The plan is now being downscaled further to the ward level. Recommendations from a national level can be successfully translated into state-, city-, and ward-level actions. It is important to examine models across scales so that action on the ground is aligned with the larger goals.

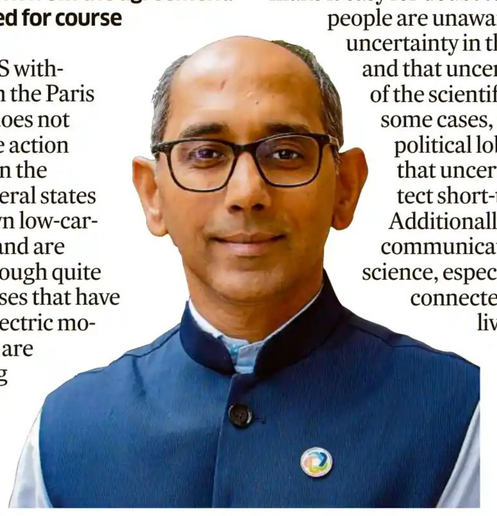
●Is India's research ecosystem keeping pace with the emerging science on end-of-life management for renewable energy components such as solar panels and batteries?

While there may be data gaps and a lack of evidence from India (considering all these are still new and haven't reached end-of-life yet), there is a lot of research, on both scientific and industrial fronts, to understand how we must manage this problem when it arises. Not only as a waste management issue but also to recover critical materials that could help reduce import dependency. It is an upcoming area of research across institutions and industry.

●Why do climate discussions focus mainly on emission cuts, while biodiversity (and climate-based solutions) gets less attention?

Climate change discussions have tended to focus on emission reductions because they are measurable, politically visible, and align with global narratives. But this narrow framing overlooks the critical role of biodiversity and ecosystem integrity in both mitigation and adaptation. Healthy ecosystems—be they forests, wetlands, mangroves, or soils—store carbon, buffer communities against climate impacts, and sustain livelihoods. We need integrated policies and financing that treat biodiversity not as an add-on but as a foundational element of climate action.

●The COP 30 is happening 10 years after the Paris Agreement. The US has withdrawn from the agreement. Is there a need for course correction?



Firstly, the US withdrawing from the Paris Agreement does not mean climate action has stopped in the country—several states have their own low-carbon policies and are following through quite well. Businesses that have invested in electric mobility and RE are also not going to suddenly withdraw their investments. In terms of other countries doing their bit, that continues to happen, too, based on their capabilities.

●Why does climate change scepticism persist despite rising climate-linked disasters?

Despite strong scientific evidence linking extreme events to climate change, uncertainty in local attribution and the complex nature of climate science make it easy for doubt to persist. Most people are unaware that there is uncertainty in the predictions and that uncertainty is part of the scientific process. In some cases, economic and political lobbies leverage that uncertainty to protect short-term interests. Additionally, the uneven communication of climate science, especially when not connected to people's lived experiences, fuels confusion.

(Read the full interview on deccanherald.com)

The science is sometimes shaky, but longevity labs, 'immortality islands' and grapeseed pills are part of China's national project to conquer ageing

Attendees at a longevity and anti-ageing conference in Shanghai try out R-lab's ultra carbon fibre hyperbaric oxygen masks. NYT

In China, the dream of outrunning time

ANDREW HIGGINS

When a Chinese State television microphone recently caught China's top leader, Xi Jinping, and President Vladimir Putin of Russia musing about the possibility of living to 150 and perhaps even forever, many reacted with anxious consternation. But there has been no tut-tutting in the laboratory of Lonvi Biosciences, a longevity medicine startup in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen. "Living to 150 is definitely realistic," said Lyu Qinghua, the chief technology officer of the company, which has developed anti-ageing pills based on a compound found in grapeseed extract. "In a few years, this will be the reality."

He is sceptical about modern medicine defeating death entirely—something Putin said was possible with organ transplants — but he thinks that longevity science is advancing so fast even the seemingly impossible might come to pass. "In five to 10 years, nobody will get cancer," he predicted.

The search for the elixir of life, embraced with gusto in recent years by American tech billionaires like Peter Thiel, has been underway in China for more than two millenniums. It started with the first emperor, Qin Shi Huang, who ordered a nationwide hunt for death-defying potions. Just in case that did not work, he also ordered the creation of thousands of terra-cotta warriors to protect him in his grave should he die. The emperor died at 49, possibly from mercury poisoning caused by an anti-ageing treatment.

A whiff of quackery has hung over the longevity business from the start. But investment from the State and private companies, as well as surging interest among both Chinese leaders and the public, have turned it into a legitimate and sometimes lucrative branch of medicine.

China, eager to catch up with and, whenever possible, surpass the West in biotech, artificial intelligence and other advanced technologies, has made the longevity industry a national priority, pouring billions into research and related commercial spinoffs.

"They have improved very rapidly. A few years ago, there was nothing here and the West was still far ahead," said Vadim Gladyshev, a Harvard Medical School professor who has done pioneering work on longevity, including an experiment that extended the expected lifespan of old mice by connecting their circulatory systems to young mice.

Chinese researchers, he said during a recent trip to China to attend two scientific conferences, "are rapidly catching up."

China's average life expectancy last year reached 79 years, five years higher than the global average, according to *The People's Daily*, the Communist Party's mouthpiece.

But that, achieved through steady improvements in healthcare and lifestyle, is still behind Japan's average of nearly 85 years and a long way from the 150 years mentioned by Xi.

Xi and Putin, both 72, may have just been making small talk. But they were taken seriously by exiled opponents of the Communist Party, who pointed to a 2019 video that appeared on Chinese social media purporting to be a promotional pitch by an elite military hospital in Beijing, 301, which treats senior officials.

The video, which was quickly scrubbed by Chinese censors, boasted that the hospital was doing pioneering work for the "981 Leaders' Health Project" — and aimed to extend the lifespan of senior party figures to 150 years.

Sensitive to all discussion of leaders' health, Chinese State television, which inadvertently captured the conversation between the leaders before a military parade in Beijing in September, ordered Western news services to delete the footage.

The hot-mic musings aside, China's enthusiasm for extending lifespan has grown in tandem with its rapid economic growth, which has given hundreds of millions of people the time and money needed to look beyond surviving day-to-day.

One Chinese company riding the tide has been Time Pie, a Shanghai-based group that got its start marketing dietary supplements and now organises scientific conferences and publishes a magazine, *Aging Slow, Living Well*.

"Nobody in China was talking about longevity before, only rich Americans," said Gan Yu, the company's co-founder. "Now many Chinese are interested and have the money they need to extend their lives."

Surging interest was on display at a recent international gathering organised by Time Pie in Shanghai of Chinese and foreign scientists presenting their research, as well as businesses hawking anti-ageing creams and potions, goji berries, cryogenic and hyperbaric chambers and other devices that are supposed to slow ageing.

Rlab, a Shanghai-based company that claims "technology can prevent humans from ageing," invited prospective customers to enter what looked like a telephone booth — a cryogenic device in which the temperature drops to minus 200 Fahrenheit. Ivor Yu, an entrepreneur from northeast China in the longevity business, stepped in, only to jump out after a few seconds, shivering from the cold. He also inspected the company's "anti-ageing magic box." He left without buying.

The idea of living forever lingers as a marketing tool. Immortal Dragons, a Singapore investment fund focussed on longevity projects, is run by a young entrepreneur from China, Bo Yang Wang, who has explored moneymaking opportunities in cryopreservation, 3D printing of organs and "whole-body replacement."

Lonvi, the longevity startup in Shenzhen, has more modest goals.

It opened a lab in 2022 in a business tower on the edge of the sprawling Chinese city next to Hong Kong after scientists in Shanghai discovered that a natural compound found in grapeseed extract—procyanidin C1 or PCC1—increased the lifespan of mice by selectively killing senescent, or aged, cells and protecting healthy cells. (Lonvi is not connected to the Shanghai scientists.)

Mice treated with the compound lived 9.4% longer across their lifetime — and 64.2% longer from the start of treatment.

The findings, published in an article in *Nature Metabolism* in 2021, were groundbreaking. But in September, the journal issued an editor's note alerting readers to "errors in the data," though it did not retract the article. Subsequent studies, including one in Japan, have supported the initial claims.

Translating what works for mice to humans requires long and rigorous testing, and what works for mice often disappoints with people, said David Barzilai, an American medical doctor and founder of Barzilai Longevity Consulting. The "canonical example" of this, he said, is rapamycin, a compound that has been proven to "robustly" extend the lifespan of mice and other animals but has "uncertain" effect on healthy human adults.

China, he said, "is increasingly taking longevity and ageing biology seriously at both the institutional and policy level." But, he added, "strong scientific intent does not guarantee uniformly high rigour or translational success. The challenge is not just doing more, but doing better."

The New York Times

Telling India's story, the Piyush Pandey way

ISHAYU GUPTA AND NEELATPHAL CHANDA

What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others. -Pericles

In a country like India, where polycultural practices thrive, Piyush Pandey's legacy will remain etched in the advertising world for his inclusive, culture-driven storytelling that resonated with people from all walks of life. In India—where dialects change every few kilometres and festivals outnumber the months—storytelling is no simple art form. It requires creativity, as well as cultural sensitivity, empathy, and an ear attuned to the pulse of the people. Few have balanced this with Piyush Pandey, the creative icon who changed the course of Indian advertising and demonstrated to the world that culturally rooted stories can transcend borders.

For Piyush, culture was not an extrasense of storytelling—it was storytelling. He redefined how India speaks to itself through brands and media in a polycultural nation seeking its voice. Whether for brands like Fevicol, Cadbury, or Indian Railways, Pandey's campaign work always had a distinct Indian flavour. They weren't adopting Western advertising formulas and misleadingly polished imagery; they were speaking in the recognisable dialect of everyday life—the chatter of neighbours, the haggling of street vendors, conversations around a family dining table, and joyful laughter shared by everyone. "Stories are not out of fashion. Everyone loves lovely stories," Piyush claimed in an interview. Good stories are timeless. It remains unchanged in this reel- and algorithm-driven era.

What made Pandey's work distinctive was his ability to translate the local into the universal. He believed that the heart of any story is to elicit human emotion—happiness, love, pride, nostalgia—emotions which create bonds between us even when culture divides us. Pandey's characters were not archetypes but representations of ordinary Indians. Whether it was the cricket enthusiast in a Cadbury spot or the provincial humour of the Fevicol carpenter, Pandey's protagonists were often the audience.

That originality was the basis of his success in a country that is at once one and many. Pandey's mode of storytelling was fundamentally democratising. He listened first—walking around towns, observing people, and collecting phrases, gestures, and moods that would later contribute to his stories. His creative process did not begin in conference rooms but in chain shops and crowded bazaars. As he noted, "The people on the street" were a primary source of inspiration, and that's where he sourced a pulse for the nation. By doing this, he demonstrated that to appeal to an audience, one needs to understand them as human beings, not as market segments.

His philosophy also takes aim at a dangerous myth—that young audiences don't value stories any more. "Gen Z are not idiots," Pandey said. "They love great stories as well." This could not be truer today, particularly in a world dominated by screens and short-form content. While they may scroll faster, they also stop for a story that comes across as authentic. Culturally grounded campaigns—in the age of culturally rooted content—from Swiggy's regional humour to Cred's nostalgically absurd ads all exist because of the legacy of decision-making, deployment, and success of the storytelling tradition that Pandey has forged.

At its simplest, Piyush Pandey's legacy is grounded in his poise that India's diversity is not a disadvantage but a pool of creativity. Telling stories in India means navigating multiple interconnected worlds—all the while being able to narrow the attention to a single story that connects them. His career is evidence that culture can be not only a lens but also a bridge. The lens allows the storytellers to see the world in its depth and breadth more faithfully. The same lens can also serve as a bridge, creating a connection of hearts across distances.

Ultimately, Pandey reminded us that the best stories don't simply sell. They celebrate people. They give us a reason to recognise that, no matter whether we are speaking Hindi, Kannada, Bengali or any other Indian language, we laugh the same way, we cry the same way, and we dream the same way. In the language of storytelling, India represents diversity but has always spoken with one voice—the voice that Piyush Pandey helped us hear so beautifully and compellingly.

(Ishayu is with the School of Media and Communication, University of Leeds, UK, and Neelatphal is with the Department of Media Studies, Christ [deemed to be] University)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER 1975

No power can influence our way of life: PM

New Delhi, November 9
Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today declared that no nation would be permitted to influence our national thinking or way of life. Addressing a large rally of the capital's citizens that had assembled to congratulate her, Mrs. Gandhi said, "We want friendship with all nations." She reiterated, however, that the path to be taken by the country would be decided without the influence of any foreign nation or power.

25 YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER 2000

Gore cuts into Bush lead in recount

Washington, Nov 9 (Reuters)
Democrat Al Gore cut into Republican George W Bush's razor-thin lead today in the continuing recount of 6 million presidential ballots in Florida, as claims of voting irregularities mounted in the state that will decide who wins the White House. With ballots from 32 out of 67 Florida counties recounted, Texas Gov Bush had only 941 more votes than Vice President Gore. Mr Gore picked up 1,189 votes in the tight race while Mr Bush gained 346 votes.

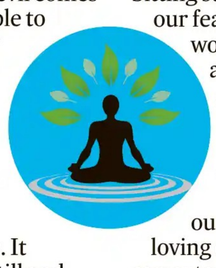
OASIS | LEELA RAMASWAMY

The power of doing nothing

'Doing nothing' is a term that is pejorative. For most of us, it refers to those who are idlers and laggards. We look upon them as parasites who live upon the labours of those who work hard and earn a living. True, when people lived in joint families, this way of life was an accepted one.

But with the advent of nuclear living, parents urge their children to learn a trade, using their time well. They have to be productive and capable of sustaining themselves and those dependent on them.

There is, however, another side to this. 'Doing nothing' has its merits. As Blaise Pascal has pointed out, 'I have discovered that all human evil comes from this—man being unable to sit still in a room'. One may wonder about what Pascal is trying to convey. If each of us were indeed able to sit still in a room doing nothing, what would that mean?



It would mean that we are at peace with ourselves. It is hard for someone to sit still and quiet without a degree of inner peace. If not, the sitter would jump up in a moment and get busy with the many things that were bothering him. Sitting still also means we have faced our fears. Otherwise sitting still would not allow us to be calm and tranquil. Sitting quietly allows us to recognise what is important in life. Most of all, it means we like our own company.

We are with no one but our own selves. Liking and loving our own selves means we can extend our consideration and compassion towards others.

The Dutch have arguably been declared the happiest people on earth. They practise 'Niksen'. It is a Dutch relaxational technique that allows peace to wash over us. A common hurdle towards embracing idleness is the overwhelming need to be busy and productive. We see that this can turn into a compulsion which destroys equanimity.

A person at peace with himself is one who has faced his fears, one who has the right priorities and therefore cannot unleash evil. What the poet William Davies says is very true 'What is this Life if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare?

Andhra's revenue deficit breaches 140% of budget estimate

AMARAVATI, PTI: Andhra Pradesh's revenue deficit has already crossed 140% of the budget estimate, reaching Rs 46,652.41 crore in the first six months of the current fiscal year against the projected Rs 33,186 crore for the entire year.

The figures indicate that the state may have to rely heavily on borrowings or Central government assistance to manage its finances.

According to the latest statistics released by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), the fiscal deficit for the April–September period stood at Rs 62,213.17 crore, about 78% of the projected Rs 79,926.90 crore for the 2024–25 financial year.

However, Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections stood at Rs 24,821.18 crore in the first half of the year, representing 43.18% of the budget estimate of Rs 57,477.15 crore for the full year.

Of the total estimated revenue receipts of Rs 2,97,929.16 crore for 2024–25, the state achieved 46%, or Rs 1,37,319.53 crore, including Rs 63,052.19 crore from borrowings and other liabilities during the six months.

The state has also spent Rs 11,715.09 crore on capital expenditure during the first half of the fiscal year, the CAG data showed.

Modi lauds Uttarakhand govt's 'bold' actions on UCC

DEHRADUN, PTI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday praised the Uttarakhand government's "bold" initiatives on demographic change, uniform civil code and checking illegal religious conversion, suggesting other states should emulate them.

"The seriousness with which the Dhami government implemented the UCC is an example for other states. The state has adopted bold policies on issues of national interest, such as the anti-conversion law and riot control law," Modi said, addressing an event on the occasion of the silver jubilee of the state's formation.

Modi inaugurated and laid foundation stones for development projects worth Rs 8260.72 crore in the hill state remotely. "Twenty-five years ago, Uttarakhand's budget was only Rs 4,000 crore, which has now surpassed Rs 1 lakh crore. In 25 years, power generation in Uttarakhand has quadrupled, and the length of roads has doubled," he said.

The Jamrani Dam in Haldwani and the Song Dam in Dehradun will play a crucial role in controlling the drinking water shortage. He said the government would provide grants to apple and kiwi farmers through digital currency.

After dynasty debate, Tharoor stirs new row by backing Advani's legacy

Draws parallels with Nehru & Indira; Cong distances itself

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Days after putting Congress on the firing line by questioning 'dynasty politics', party MP Shashi Tharoor on Sunday defended the legacy of BJP veteran LK Advani, saying it is "unfair" to reduce his "long years of service to one episode" of leading the contentious 'Rath Yatra' while drawing parallel to Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi.

His comments came as a response to senior lawyer Sanjay Hegde, who found Tharoor's birthday wishes to Advani, citing his commitment to public service, as objectionable. It also came on a day the campaigning for the Bihar polls concluded.

Congress was quick to distance itself from Tharoor over his remarks, with its Media and Publicity Department Chairman Pawan Khera saying, "Like always, Shashi Tharoor speaks for himself, and the Indian National Congress outrightly dissociates itself from his most recent statement."

Indicating that the party is not going to take action, Khera added, "That he continues to do so as a Congress MP and CWC member reflects the essential democratic and liberal spirit unique" to the Congress.

On Saturday, Tharoor posted an old image of Advani and him and said, "wishing the venerable LK Advani a very happy 98th birthday! His unwavering commitment to public service, his modesty and decency, and his role in shaping the trajectory of modern India are indelible. A true statesman whose life of service has been exemplary."

However, Hegde responded, "sorry Mr Tharoor, unleashing the "dragon seeds of hatred" (to quote Kushwant Singh) in this country is not public service". Hegde was apparently referring to the 'Rath Yatra' that later culminated in the demolition of Babri Masjid at the height of the movement to build a Ram temple in Ayodhya.

Tharoor responded on Sunday, agreeing with the senior lawyer, but said that reducing his legacy to one episode was unfair. "Agreed, @sanjayuvacha (Hegde), but reducing his long years of service to one episode, however significant, is also unfair. The totality of Nehru-ji's career cannot be judged by the China setback, nor Indira Gandhi's by the Emergency alone. I believe we should extend the same courtesy to Advani-ji," he said.

Tharoor has been at loggerheads with the Congress leadership for some time, and his comments and stands on various issues have irked the party.

The Congress has not taken any disciplinary action, though his remarks have been triggering controversies so far. It is unlikely to precipitate a crisis, as Kerala, from where he is an MP and a popular figure, is heading to Assembly elections in April-May next year.

Tharoor believes he should be made the party's chief ministerial face, but the Congress has not been enthusiastic about the idea. His remarks that are seen as cosying up to the BJP are seen in the party circles as an attempt to embarrass the Congress ahead of the polls.

SHASHI THAROOR
Congress leader

"Reducing his long years of service to one episode, however significant, is also unfair. The totality of Nehruji's career cannot be judged by the China setback, nor Indira Gandhi's by the Emergency alone. I believe we should extend the same courtesy to Advaniji.

PAWAN KHERA
Congress' media and publicity department head

"Like always, Dr. Shashi Tharoor speaks for himself and the Indian National Congress outrightly dissociates itself from his most recent statement. That he continues to do so as a Congress MP and CWC member reflects the essential democratic & liberal spirit unique to INC.

Winter Sessions shorter than 20 days in last 5 years

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

This year's Winter Session is scheduled from Dec 1. PTI FILE

The number of sittings during the Winter Session of Parliament has not crossed 20 under the Narendra Modi government in the past five years, while Parliament was adjourned sine die before schedule thrice during the period.

Amid the Opposition finding fault with the Modi government over the announcement of a shorter Winter Session, an analysis showed that the highest number of sittings since Modi came to power in 2014 were in that year and 2016, while the lowest were in 2017 and 2022.

The Winter Session will start this time on December 1 and end on December 19, with 15 total sittings.

During the 10 years of the UPA, Winter Sessions were scheduled for 14-24 days, while under the Modi government, they oscillated between 14 and 22 days.

The last time the Winter Session saw at least 20 days of sittings was in 2019, months after Modi returned to power for the second time. In 2020, the Winter Session could not be held due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In 2021, 19 sittings were announced, but Parliament was adjourned sine die a day earlier. The next year, the Winter Session saw just 13 sittings, as it was adjourned four days ahead of schedule.

The analysis showed that 15 days were scheduled for sitting in 2023, but the House was adjourned sine die a day earlier. In 2022 and 2023, the session began on December 7 and December 4, respectively. There were 19 sittings in 2024.

The Session was called as late as December 15 in 2017, as the Gujarat Assembly elections were taking place. It ended on January 5. Similar was the case in 2018, when the session began on December 11 and ended on January 9, having sittings for 17 days, though initially 20 days were earmarked.

The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs informed the Rajya Sabha in December 2017 that the Winter Session had lasted for a shorter period. It then cited that in 1976, the Winter Session was scheduled for 12 days for the Lok Sabha and 13 days for the Rajya Sabha, while the actual sitting was 11 and nine days, respectively.

In 2013, when the UPA was in power, 14 sittings were scheduled, but Parliament was adjourned sine die four days before schedule.

In 2008, the two-day Monsoon Session, in which a no-confidence motion was moved against the UPA-I, was extended until December.

Assam Cabinet approves bill to ban polygamy

Proposes up to 7-year jail for guilty, aid for victims

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

The Assam Cabinet on Sunday approved a bill that proposes to prohibit polygamy and imprisonment up to seven years for those found guilty of it.

The Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025, is scheduled to be tabled in the Winter Session of the Assembly from November 25.

The Bill, however, seeks to exempt ethnic communities and areas under the three autonomous councils set up under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution: the Bodoland Territorial Council, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, and the Dima Hasao Autonomous Council. At least eight districts fall under these councils.

Announcing the decision, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma told reporters that after the bill is passed, polygamy would also become a cognizable offence, disallowing the accused to get bail immediately.

"Under this bill, polygamy is prohibited in respect of the person who shall not marry if he has a living spouse or is not legally separated from the other spouse by following due procedure of law or is a party to a marriage which is not yet dissolved or annulled by a decree of divorce. The Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025, further seeks to provide compensation to the victim women as they have to suffer immense pain and hardship due to polygamous marriage," Sarma said.

The CM also claimed that, alongside demographic changes, the state is also seeing an "economic shift", with Muslims becoming more prosperous, and said this could signal the "surrender of the Assamese people".

Opposition parties, however, said that by passing the bill, the BJP would try to target Muslims as part of its polarisation tactics in the run-up to the Assembly elections slated early next year.

580 families evicted in Goalpara

At least a dozen bulldozers were pressed into service on Sunday to demolish houses belonging to 580 families in Assam's Goalpara district as the BJP-led government resumed its eviction drive.

All those served notice were Bengali-speaking Muslims, a community that has become the target of evictions that intensified in June.

Forest personnel carried out the drive at the Dahikata reserve forest in the presence of the armed forces. It began without any resistance from the families because many had fled with their belongings after getting notices.

AIR ANGUISH

A demonstrator holds a placard during a protest against worsening air quality, at India Gate in New Delhi on Sunday. Parents and environmental activists joined the demonstration over rising pollution levels in the national capital. PTI

Parth's firm may have to pay Rs 42 cr to scrap Pune deal

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

The controversial Pune land deal involving Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's son, Parth Pawar, may have been cancelled; however, the latter's company may have to pay Rs 42 crore for the cancellation.

Amadea Enterprises LLP, co-owned by Parth Pawar and his cousin Digvijay Patil, will have to pay double stamp duty, around Rs 42 crore, to cancel the sale deed of the disputed 40-acre land located in the Mundhwa area of Pune.

According to the Department of Registration and Stamps, Amadea Enterprises had earlier claimed a 7% stamp duty exemption, equivalent to Rs 21 crore, by citing plans to build an IT and data centre on the land.

The firm will now not only have to pay the original 7% duty but also an additional 7% to execute the cancellation deed.

It may be mentioned the Devendra Fadnavis-led Maha Yuti government decided to scrap the deal after, prima facie, it appeared to be illegal.

The deal relates to Survey No. 88 in Mouje Mundhwa, adjacent to the prime locality of Koregaon Park in Pune, where around 40 acres of Mahar Watan land, denoting hereditary landholding to the Mahar (Scheduled Caste) community, made up of 272 smaller plots, was illegally sold to Amadea Enterprises LLP, represented by Parth and Digvijay Patil, for Rs 300 crore, and the stamp duty on it was waived.

The market value of the land has been pegged at Rs 1,800 crore.

Parth holds a 99% stake in Amedia, and his cousin Digvijay holds 1%. The registration was carried out by Shital Tejwani, who holds the power of attorney for 272 individuals shown as landowners.

BJP fields Kerala's first woman IPS officer in civic polls

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Kerala's first woman IPS officer, R Sreelekha, is entering the electoral fray as a BJP candidate in the Thiruvananthapuram city corporation election.

The BJP, which is making all-out efforts to win the Thiruvananthapuram corporation, is also fielding former athlete Padmini Thomas.

R Sreelekha

The Congress has made clear its plans to make things tougher for the BJP and regain its lost glory in the CPM-ruled city corporation by fielding former MLA and prominent leader K S Sabarinadhan.

The young professional, son of former Congress leader G Karthikeyan, is also being projected as the Congress's mayoral candidate.

At present, the CPM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) has 52 seats in the 100-seat corporation, while the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has 35 seats, and the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) has 10 seats.

The NDA, which won only six seats in 2010, made a major leap by bagging 35 in 2015 and 2020, whereas the UDF, which won 42 seats in 2010, nosedived to 21 in 2015 and 10 in 2020.

Kerala BJP president Rajeev Chandrasekhar is directly monitoring electioneering in the city corporation, especially since his party is pinning high hopes on at least three seats in the state capital in the 2026 Assembly polls.

The BJP is fielding Sreelekha from the Sasthamangalam ward.

Sreelekha, who joined the BJP last year, was made the party's state vice-president earlier this year. The 1987-batch IPS officer, who retired at the rank of director general of police, has a clean track record.

"Being born and brought up in the city, I know it very well and am sure of winning," she told reporters.

Padmini Thomas has been fielded at Palayam in the heart of the city. An Arjuna award recipient and Asian Games medallist, Thomas was earlier with the Congress. She joined the BJP last year.

No job in lieu of land acquired, says Supreme Court

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has dismissed a plea of a man from Haryana seeking a job in lieu of his family land acquired, under the Land Acquisition Act, nearly 30 years ago, even before he was born.

A bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and Prasanna B Varale noted that the family was awarded and paid compensation, yet the man approached the courts seeking a job in lieu of land acquired.

Rejecting his plea, the bench said, "Under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, on the land being acquired, the petitioner or his family is entitled only to the compensation which has already been paid. There is no provision for grant of job in lieu of the acquired land."

The court said the policy decision, if any, of giving job in lieu of the acquired land cannot prevail over the statutory provisions.

"We find no error or illegality on the part of the authorities and the high court in dismissing the claim of the petition for job, which was filed after more than 18 years of the framing of the policy," the bench said.

Appellant Sanjeev Kumar challenged an order passed by High Court of Punjab and Haryana on August 26. The petitioner had made Haryana governments and three others as respondents in the matter.

The land of the family of the petitioner is said to have been acquired in the year 1998 under the provisions of Land Acquisition Act, 1894. The court observed that the family of the petitioner was awarded compensation and the same was also paid.

The petitioner who was not even born at the time when the land was acquired.

In the year 2025, he applied for a job in lieu of the acquired land.

FIRST NORTHEAST AIRSHOW

IAF showcases Operation Sindoor weapons over Brahmaputra

GUWAHATI, DHNS

Indian Air Force (IAF) fighter jets on Sunday made a "special formation" at the airshow over the Brahmaputra in Guwahati to display the weapons used during Operation Sindoor.

The airshow — the first in the Northeast — was organised at Lachit Ghat on the bank of the Brahmaputra to mark the 93rd Air Force Day. The riverbank was named after Lachit Borphukan, a celebrated general of the Ahom Dynasty who defeated the Mughals in the Battle of Saraighat on the Brahmaputra in 1671.

A defence spokesperson said nearly 60 IAF assets — comprising fighter and transport aircraft as well as helicopters — made an aerial display over the Brahmaputra as thousands lined up along the banks to witness it.

"Highlights included the Tejas, Light Combat Helicopter Apache, C-295, and Hawks, symbolising the pathway to national resilience," he added.

The Harvard, Sukhoi-30, and Rafale displayed low-level aerobatics. The performance concluded with synchronised manoeuvring by the Suryakiran Aerobatics Team and the Sarang helicopter display team.

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA
Assam Chief Minister

"The North East's first ever air show was indeed a breathtaking show of strength, skill & spirit. Your overwhelming support for Bharat's Air Warriors – so close to the Chicken's Neck and four international borders – will give sleepless nights to enemies inside and outside the country.

Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A P Singh attended the event.

The IAF chief said one of the aims of organising the airshow in Guwahati was to attract youths from the Northeast to the Air Force and the aviation sector as a career.

The fly-past featured formations named after iconic landmarks of the Northeast: Lachit, Kaziranga, Manas, Haati (Elephant), and Barak.

The LCA Tejas, flying under the call sign "Lachit", opened the display as a tribute to Lachit Barphukan, while Apache helicopters under the call sign "Rhinoceros" honoured the region's wildlife.

Beyond the gun: J&K Police shift focus to digital terror networks

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Security personnel conduct a search and cordon operation as part of a crackdown against terror operatives in Kulgam. PTI

In a marked departure from the gunfights and cordon operations that once defined counter-insurgency in Kashmir, the Jammu and Kashmir Police are now widening their lens, targeting not just militants, but the ecosystem that sustains them.

From coordinated raids across districts to scrutiny of SIM card vendors and surprise inspections inside jails, the campaign reflects a shift from combat to containment.

Over the past week, police teams have launched a coordinated crackdown on individuals allegedly linked to Pakistan-based terrorists, surrendered militants, and other anti-national elements across multiple locations in J&K.

"The operations are preventive in nature and are part of ongoing efforts to ensure that anti-national networks do not regroup or operate," a senior police officer said. "SIM cards issued on fake or manipulated credentials were being used by Pakistan-based handlers and their local overground networks to maintain secure communication channels."

"The focus is to break the chain, not only by neutralising militants but by cutting off their support systems, from communication to funding," the officer said, adding that several telecom vendors are under scanner for violating KYC norms.

Simultaneously, police and intelligence agencies have intensified searches inside jails, particularly in Anantnag, Kupwara, and Baramulla, after inputs suggested that certain inmates were coordinating with operatives outside using smuggled phones and encrypted messaging platforms. The raids led to the recovery of cell phones, SIM cards, and written notes, officials confirmed.

However, human rights activists caution that the widening net of "preventive policing" risks implicating families of former militants or sympathisers.

'Integration events' is J&K's new contract industry

NGOs, private firms bagged govt contracts to organise events

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

PATRIOTISM FOR PROFIT?

- Many of the organisers were incorporated after 2019, after J&K's statehood and special status were revoked
- After that, the Union govt launched an aggressive 'normalcy' campaign
- Organisers are often assigned events through limited tenders or direct work orders
- The aim is 'to promote national unity and awareness', but officials admit that transparency is minimal.

The Tricolour flutters everywhere in Srinagar these days — from marathon startlines to college amphitheatres and manicured parks. Each week brings a new event celebrating "national integration", "Nasha Mukt Bharat", or "Viksit Bharat Sankalp".

Behind the patriotic banners and selfies lies a quiet industry — one that's minting money from the politics of spectacle.

Official sources said several NGOs and private firms received government contracts worth crores in the past few years to organise these "outreach" events across Jammu and Kashmir. Many of them were incorporated after 2019, when the Union government revoked J&K's special status and launched an aggressive "normalcy" campaign.

These entities are routinely assigned marathons, music shows, Tricolour rallies, and cultural festivals by departments such as Information, Tourism, Smart City, and Rural Development — often through limited tenders or direct work orders, said the official sources.

The stated aim is "to promote national unity and awareness", but officials familiar with the process admitted that transparency was minimal.

"A small group of organisers get repeated assignments," said a senior government officer who requested anonymity. "Most contracts are cleared in haste under outreach or publicity heads, where financial scrutiny is weaker. These are easy projects — high visibility, low accountability."

In one district, a single NGO was found to have conducted over a dozen "integration" events — from road shows to bike rallies — earning more than Rs 1 crore through combined departmental payments. Another Srinagar-based event company has become a preferred entity for Tricolour-themed campaigns.

Local event managers say the ecosystem has become a closed circle. "The themes keep shifting — Beti Bachao, Drug-Free Kashmir, or Viksit Bharat — but the beneficiaries are the same," said a young coordinator who has worked on several such contracts. "If you're not politically connected or endorsed by the police, you won't get a call."

While officials insist the campaigns are about "positive engagement", economists see a deeper pattern.

"Public spending has turned performative," said a political analyst. "It's about projecting patriotism as proof of normalcy, even when governance outcomes remain unchanged."

Ordinary citizens echoed that sentiment. "These events light up the city for a day or two," said a shopkeeper in Lal Chowk. "Then the banners come down and life goes back to power cuts, joblessness and potholes."

Meanwhile, the visible beneficiaries — tent contractors, local PR handlers, printing presses, and a handful of NGOs — continue to thrive. "Patriotism has become a business model," remarked a Srinagar-based journalist who tracks government spending. "There's a rate card for everything — from Tricolour distribution to drone coverage."

Minor student shoots classmate with father's pistol; victim critical

GURUGRAM, PTI: A class 11 student was shot at, allegedly by his classmate using his father's licensed pistol in a flat in Sector 48 here, police said on Sunday.

According to police, the bullet got lodged in the student's neck, and his condition remains critical.

An FIR has been registered, and two minor students have been apprehended in connection with the case. The police said they recovered one pistol, two magazines, 70 cartridges, and a bullet shell from the spot.

The incident occurred around 9.30 pm on Saturday. Three classmates were in the accused's rented flat when a spat occurred, following which one of them allegedly shot another, according to police.

A police team rushed the injured to the hospital, and took the other two students into custody, police said.

During interrogation, police said the two accused revealed that they were all class 11 students at the same school. Two months ago, the accused had a fight with the victim and held a grudge.

WB woman, daughter critical after 'suicide bid' over SIR fear

KOLKATA, PTI: A 27-year-old woman in West Bengal's Hooghly district allegedly attempted suicide along with her minor daughter reportedly out of fear after not receiving a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) enumeration form, her family claimed on Sunday.

The alleged incident took place at the woman's home at Dhaniakhali in the district on Saturday.

The woman and her daughter are currently in critical condition at SSKM Hospital's ICU, police said, adding that an investigation into the alleged incident is underway.

According to the woman's father, she was deeply distressed after she did not receive the SIR form while other family members did.

"She was frightened because she had no documents and feared being deported. Out of panic, she consumed poison along with her daughter," he said after visiting her daughter in Kolkata.

She had been living at her parental home in Dhaniakhali in the district for the past six years following a marital dispute. She had been under visible mental stress for the past few days, they said.

Dhaniakhali Trinamool Congress MLA Asima Patra accused the BJP of creating fear among people through misleading statements about NRC and detention camps.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help.)

BLO dies of stroke

A booth-level officer (BLO) engaged by the Election Commission for the SIR of electoral rolls died after suffering a brain stroke in West Bengal's Purba Bardhaman district, her husband claimed on Sunday, attributing the death indirectly to extreme mental stress caused by work pressure.
District officials said Namita Hansda (50) collapsed at her home late Saturday night due to "severe stress because of the mounting workload." She was taken to hospital, where doctors declared her brought dead.

Rape-accused Punjab AAP legislator flees to Australia

PATIALA, PTI: Punjab AAP MLA Harmit Singh Pathanmajra, who has been on the run since September 2 in a rape case, is learnt to have fled to Australia after his appearance in a video interview.

The development came as an embarrassment for the police, as the Sanour MLA remained elusive despite raids at his possible hideouts.

Patiala police also issued a lookout notice against the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA.

Pathanmajra appeared in the video interview on Friday with an Australia-based Punjabi web channel in which he claimed that he would "return home only after securing bail".

Denying all allegations, he termed the case a "political conspiracy", aimed at silencing voices that speak for Punjab's people.

A Patiala court has already initiated proclaimed offender proceedings against Pathanmajra after he failed to appear in connection with the rape case.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

YO! HEY, DAGWOOD!
HEY, FREDDIE! DOING SOME CLOTHES SHOPPING?
THE DAD BOD BUNGALOW
"Custom-Fit for Your Lifestyle"
YEAH, I FINALLY FOUND A STORE WITH REALISTIC SIZES!
DAD BOD BUNGALOW

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

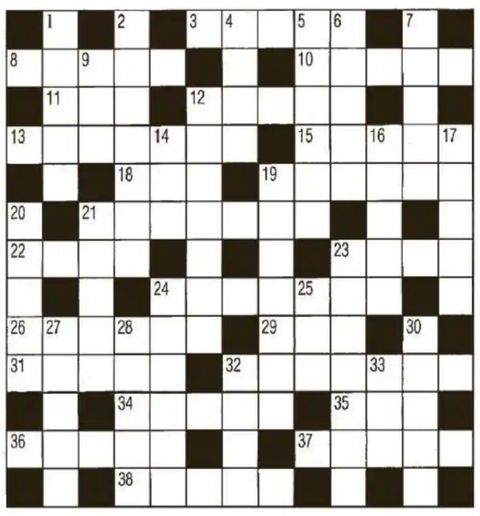
I HEARD TODAY THAT BY THE YEAR 2050 NINE BILLION PEOPLE WILL INHIBIT THE EARTH
HA HA! YOU MEAN INHABIT!
GREG'+ MORT WALKER
ACTUALLY, YOU'RE BOTH RIGHT

Peanuts

I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY SAID IN THAT MEETING
THEY SAID THAT OUR GROUP IS GOING TO CAMP OUT TONIGHT
YOU MEAN SLEEP OUTSIDE?
THAT'S RIGHT
ON PURPOSE?

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12284



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
3 Jack, that touchy fellow (5)
8 Many have spoken of what is ethical (5)
10 It's not played at school! (5)
11 Little beast very quietly going out of turn (3)
12 It can carry a humorist ahead (5)
13 Negligible little chap (7)
15 Writer of notes who overdid the hearty bit? (5)
18 Salt in cigarettes? (3)
19 Stop showing a boy it's wrong (6)
21 A harp composition by the Spanish artist (7)
22 Bird you could have for a lira? (4)
23 Engineers' morning paper? (4)
24 Train fellows who ran about a mile, maybe (7)
26 Hit twenty, followed by 500 (6)
29 One must do so or die in the attempt (3)
31 Very fast, but possibly not on the way to town (3-2)
32 Bohemian types in dire straits? (7)
34 Defeats in slick style (5)
35 Little beast, a bit of a crook (3)
36 A loch or lake, even (5)
37 A near-worthless little woman (5)
38 They keep a check on a dissipated siren (5)

DOWN
1 Leave a musical production in success (3,2)
2 Excellent finance (7)
4 The actual part of Ealing with a tourist centre (4)
5 Not the pick of one's working implements (6)
6 Vocal accents adding weight to certain points (5)
7 Slips across the road (5)
9 Manage to keep chickens? (3)
12 Explosive military leader? (7)
14 Drawing a politician out (3)
16 Get ready to eat, perhaps (5)
17 Articles about troubled times? (5)
19 Traders always ready to give a hand? (7)
20 See rust as the hard outer part (5)
21 Where to get a possibly iron-framed piano (5)
23 Went back to bed (7)
24 Be unhappy about the dilapidated pier, by the way (6)
25 On which to stand a drink, perhaps (3)
27 Protection for a fieldsman? (5)
28 Monarch with only one foot? (5)
30 Rock may be suitable for the foundation (5)
32 Like a family relocated in Okinawa (4)
33 Boy starting school, getting ahead (3)

ACROSS
3 Dutch cheese (5)
8 Satan (5)
10 Vote in (5)
11 Cooking vessel (3)
12 Irritate (5)
13 Vacation (7)
15 Speak (5)
18 Insane (3)
19 Chief manservant (6)
21 Frankness (7)
22 Gemstone (4)
23 Pudding ingredient (4)
24 Debilitates (7)
26 Defence pleas (6)
29 Epoch (3)
31 Of the kidneys (5)
32 Favours (7)
34 Hints (5)
35 Insect (3)
36 Lizard (5)
37 Petticoats (5)
38 Horde (5)

DOWN
1 Warehouse (5)
2 Barely adequate (7)
4 Comply (4)
5 Swallow (6)
6 Attentive (5)
7 Sharp (5)
9 Woman's name (3)
12 Oars (7)
14 Karate expert (3)
16 Pseudonym (5)
17 Mistake (5)
19 Street musicians (7)
20 As yet (2,3)
21 Hut (5)
23 Steal (7)
24 Osier (6)
25 Before (3)
27 Horizontal (5)
28 Supports (5)
30 Underground vault (5)
32 Fruit (4)
33 Biblical priest (3)

SOLUTIONS TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2653

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1 Choosy, 4 Epidemic, 9 Mature, 10 Grey area, 12 Chew over, 13 Foster, 15 Lead, 16 Highwayman, 19 Wall Street, 20 Snap, 23 Rising, 25 Sizeable, 27 Open mind, 28 Napalm, 29 Talented, 30 Elicit.

DOWN: 1 Comical, 2 On the ball, 3 Sermon, 5 Pure, 6 Day-to-day, 7 Merit, 8 Chagrin, 11 Devilry, 14 Phoenix, 17 Mont Blanc, 18 As one man, 19 Workout, 21 Pre-empt, 22 Befall, 24 Spell, 26 Once.

◆SU-DO-KU-6747◆

	6	1				4		
4	7		6	3				
					2		5	
	4							7
		3	7	9	8	1		
7							9	
	8		9					
				4	1		7	5
		7				6	4	

hard

SOLUTION TO 6746

2	3	9	8	7	1	5	4	6
7	8	4	6	5	2	1	9	3
6	1	5	4	3	9	7	8	2
3	2	1	9	8	5	4	6	7
5	4	7	3	2	6	9	1	8
8	9	6	7	1	4	2	3	5
9	5	3	2	4	8	6	7	1
4	7	2	1	6	3	8	5	9
1	6	8	5	9	7	3	2	4

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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C3	S1	G2	L1	N1	A1	I1	Double Word Score
C3	I1	I1	Q10	N1	N1	U1	
Y4	I1	R1	N1	N1	O1	O1	
T1	R1	M3	A1	O1	E1	S1	Triple Word Score

RACK 1 | RACK 2 | RACK 3 | RACK 4

PAR SCORE 110-120
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

F4	O1	R1	S1	O1	O1	K5	RACK 1 = 78
N1	Y4	L1	O1	N1	S1		RACK 2 = 17
F4	A1	L1	S1	E1	L1	Y4	RACK 3 = 63
P3	L1	O1	V4	E1	R1		RACK 4 = 11

PAR SCORE 110-120 JUDD'S TOTAL 169

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

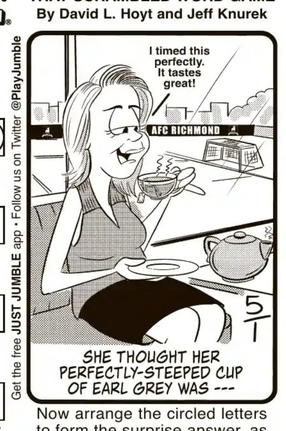
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DUTIA

CIWTE

RAHEGC

RFETRE



Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Answer here: ( ) - ( ) (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: WOOZY SCOUT GLASSY CANVAS
Answer: Now that they'd completed the 26-mile race, it was time — TO SAY SO LONG

HITORI-3201

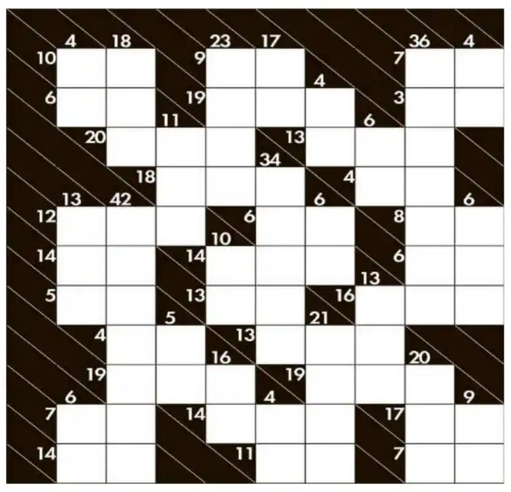
8	2	1	7	2	4	6	2
4	1	2	5	7	8	7	2
6	2	4	6	5	2	1	3
3	4	7	3	1	5	2	2
5	3	2	1	4	2	8	5
2	2	3	5	7	6	7	1
7	8	2	3	6	1	4	2
1	2	6	2	8	8	3	7

SOLUTION TO 3200

■	5	7	■	3	2	6	■
8	4	■	5	1	6	■	7
7	2	5	8	■	3	1	6
■	8	■	7	6	1	2	■
1	3	2	4	■	5	7	8
5	7	■	1	2	■	8	4
4	■	1	2	■	8	■	5
■	1	6	3	8	4	5	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3201



SOLUTION TO 3200

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3731

■		4						■
	■	1		2			7	
	7	3			4	■		
			■		2	8		
				5			2	
			9		■			
1	8	■				9		
	■	7					■	6
■	9			7	3			■

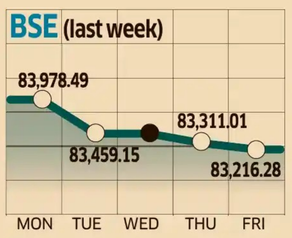
SOLUTION TO 3730

7	5	4	2	6	3	8	9	1
8	9	6	1	7	4	2	3	5
1	3	2	5	8	9	4	6	7
2	6	5	3	1	7	9	4	8
9	7	3	4	5	8	6	1	2
4	8	1	9	2	6	7	5	3
3	4	8	7	9	5	1	2	6
5	2	7	6	4	1	3	8	9
6	1	9	8	3	2	5	7	4

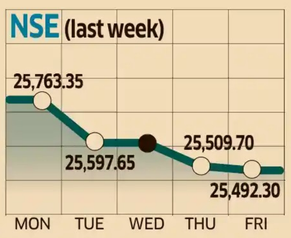
To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

DH BUSINESS

DECCAN HERALD
Monday
November 10, 2025



*Data as of Nov 7



*Markets were closed on Wednesday due to Guru Nanak Jayanti

TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
M&M	5.89%	POWERGRID	-5.60%
ASIANPAINTS	4.32%	MARUTI	-4.41%
BAJFINANCE	2.31%	ITC	-3.87%
SBIN	2.02%	ETERNAL	-3.71%
BAJFINSV	0.77%	LT	-3.71%

TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
SHRIRAM FIN	9.01%	HINDALCO IND	-6.78%
MAHI & MAHI	5.82%	GRASIM INDS	-5.78%
ASIANPAINTS	4.10%	POWER GRID	-5.60%
HDFC LIFE INS	2.38%	ADANI ENT	-4.50%
BAJFINANCE	2.28%	HERO MOTO CO	-4.47%

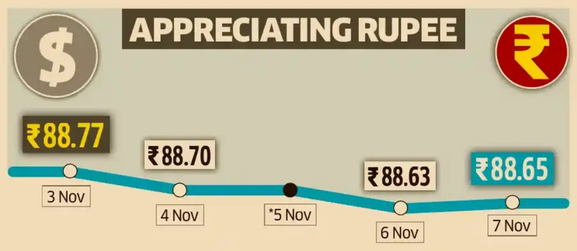
Sensex (52-week)

Nov 7, 2024	Nov 7, 2025	
79,541.79	83,216.28	4.62%

Nifty (52-week)

Nov 7, 2024	Nov 7, 2025	
24,199.35	25,492.30	5.34%

10-year Bond yield 6.51%



*Markets were closed on Nov 5 due to Guru Nanak Jayanti

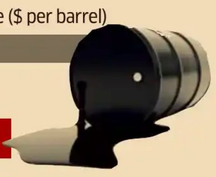
Exchange Rates*

Dollar	₹88.65	SGD	₹68.20
Pound	₹116.36	Yen (100 units)	₹57.81
Euro	₹102.30		

*Price at which banks sell

Crude Oil Rate ($ per barrel)

BRENT CRUDE
$63.63*
0.39%
*Rate as of Nov 7



Bengaluru fuel pump price*

(Retail)
Petrol* ₹102.92 ₹0%
Diesel* ₹90.99 ₹0%

*Rates as of Nov 7 #Rate change compared with yesterday

Commodity watch

COFFEE

Category	Rate (Rs per 50 kg)*
Arabica Parchment	₹27500 - 28000
Arabica Cherry	₹14000 - 15700
Robusta Parchment	₹17000 - 17500
Robusta Cherry	₹10700 - 11600

*Rates as on Nov 7

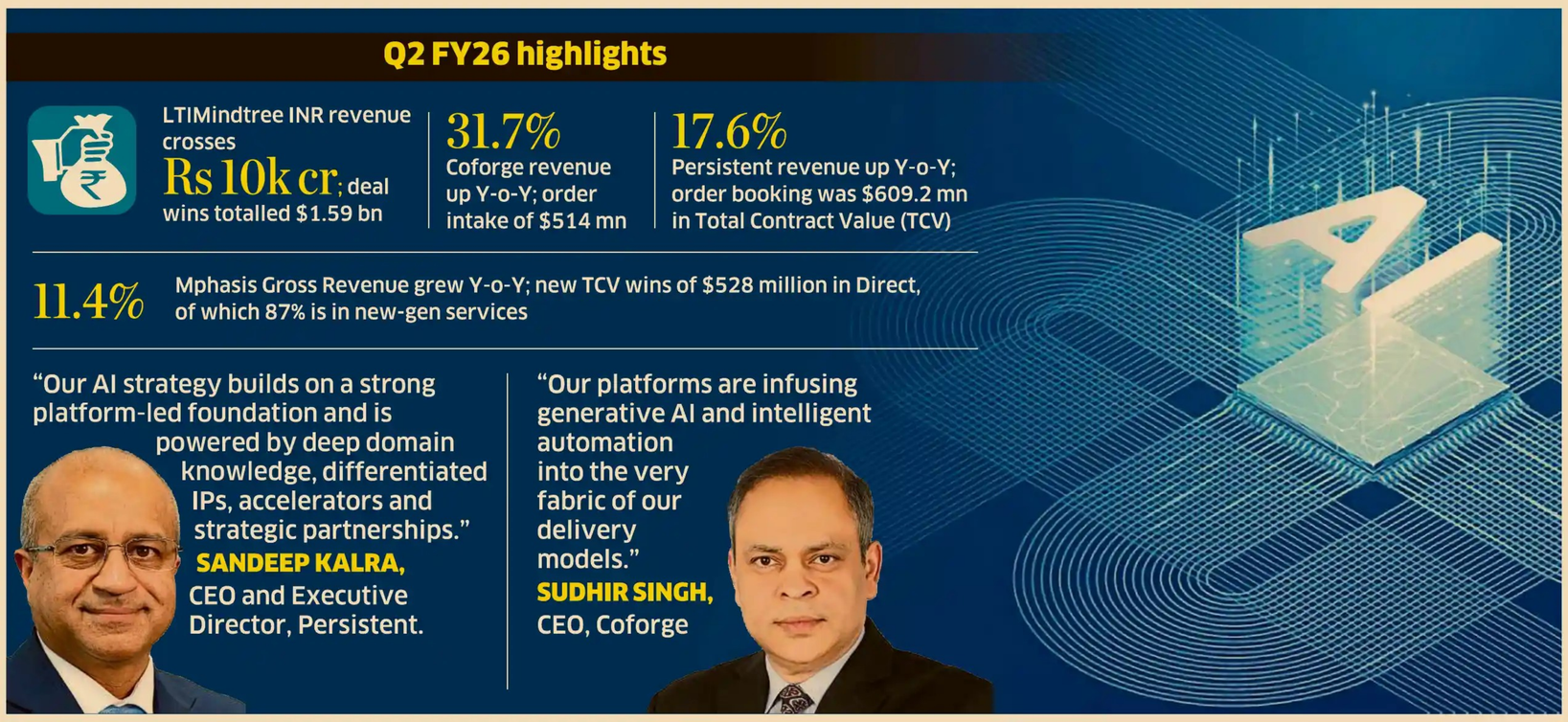
Other Commodities

Silkworm cocoon (Rs per kg)*

Bivoltine (BV)	₹702
Cross Breed (CB)	₹640

*Average rates as on Nov 7

Mid-tier IT firms show greater resilience than large peers


Q2 FY26 highlights
LTIMindtree INR revenue crosses Rs 10k cr; deal wins totalled $1.59 bn
31.7% Coforge revenue up Y-o-Y; order intake of $514 mn
17.6% Persistent revenue up Y-o-Y; order booking was $609.2 mn in Total Contract Value (TCV)
11.4% Mphasis Gross Revenue grew Y-o-Y; new TCV wins of $528 million in Direct, of which 87% is in new-gen services
"Our AI strategy builds on a strong platform-led foundation and is powered by deep domain knowledge, differentiated IPs, accelerators and strategic partnerships." SANDEEP KALRA, CEO and Executive Director, Persistent.
"Our platforms are infusing generative AI and intelligent automation into the very fabric of our delivery models." SUDHIR SINGH, CEO, Coforge
AI

These firms are trying to capture a share of the rapidly growing AI market

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Mid-sized IT firms including LTIMindtree, Coforge, Persistent Systems and Mphasis have posted high-quality growth in the second quarter, and these companies are continuously advancing their AI infrastructure in order to win more AI deals.

LTIMindtree in the second quarter ended September 2025, posted a 12% increase in its consolidated net profit at Rs 1,401 crore. Recently, the company won a $100 million multi-year deal with a US-based global manufacturer of chemicals and polymers.

Coforge, which recorded a 5.9% sequential Constant Currency (CC) growth, registered an EBIT of 14% for the second quarter. Its net profit during the quarter was Rs 375.8 crore, up 86% Y-o-Y and the company signed five large deals during the September quarter.

Mphasis reported a 10.8% increase in its consolidated net profit for the quarter ended September 2025, to Rs 469 crore. Its revenue from operations in the second quarter stood at Rs 3,902 crore, a 10% increase.

Persistent reported $406.2 million revenue in Q2 FY26 with 17.6% Y-o-Y growth. "Our AI strategy builds on a strong platform-led foundation and is powered by deep domain knowledge, differentiated IPs, accelerators and strategic partnerships. This integrated approach brings together enterprise readiness for AI transformation, engineering hyper-productivity and business hyper-productivity," said Sandeep Kalra, CEO and Executive Director, Persistent.

Coforge is leveraging code inside AI, its own code intelligence platform to harness the power of advanced large language models (LLMs).

These mid-sized IT firms are trying to capture a share of the rapidly growing AI market.

During the company's second quarter earnings conference, Sudhir Singh, CEO, Coforge said, "Our platforms, including Code Insight AI for enhanced software reverse engineering, BlueSwan for integrated automation and orchestration, and ForgeX for rapid transformation are infusing generative AI and intelligent automation into the very fabric of our delivery models."

Mid-tier IT services firms once again showed greater resilience than their Tier-1 peers in Q2 FY26 — not just in topline growth but in operational discipline, said Praveen Bhadada, CEO & Managing Partner, NEOVAY Global, a consulting firm.

While Tier-1 firms are still working through discretionary-spend fatigue and delayed deal ramp ups, Tier 2 cohorts saw relatively better growth with Coforge and Persistent marching ahead yet again this quarter, he said.

"However, bookings growth in this quarter was a mixed bag with only a few large companies (such as HCL and TCS) showing QoQ growth. Headline wins were also not visible barring a few resilient mid-caps such as Coforge, Persistent, and LTTS (with a $100 million order this quarter). This is likely going to put pressure on the future growth prospects of the sector," he explained.

Mid-sized IT firms can position as AI native

AI is a great equalizer, and all the tech services firms rely on the same foundation models and third-party tools. Data Science and AI engineering skills are also available to all players. Hence the large firms do not have a significant advantage or more. "Another key aspect of this market is that clients seem to prefer specialist firms and have significant doubts about the large players, these concerns are further amplified as the large incumbent players are committed to the labour arbitrage model, which is being disrupted and creating a misalignment in motivation that is becoming obvious to their clients," Peter Bendor-Samuel, Founder and Executive Chairman of Everest Group told *DH*.

He added that if the smaller firms can position themselves as AI native or more committed to AI they are often perceived as the go to option, allowing them to compete, win and take market share.

As these mid-size firms move forward, they should seek to further craft their position as specialists in AI and AI transformation, and they should seek to combine this with an industry and functional focus to make this positioning more relevant. "They must address the fundamental issue that clients face. That is, almost all AI investments fail to create a significant ROI (Return on Investment). The reason for this is that in AI transformation significant unlocking does not occur until the client has changed its operating model. Just adding new AI tech to the existing process results in incremental benefits not significant unlock. Hence these firms must address the broader people process and technology story, and not just the technology," he said.

However, Praveen Bhadada said AI roadmaps, though ubiquitous in commentary, are not very differentiated across the firms and give an impression of missing clarity. While all firms talked about moving from pilots to early monetisation, the financial impact continues to remain marginal for now. FY26-27 will be the year to watch for tangible outcomes and emergence of platform centric revenue models across Engineering Productivity, Enterprise Productivity and Data for AI use cases.

"From a valuation perspective, multiples remain elevated for select outliers (such as Coforge, Persistent), suggesting investor belief in resilient market leaders and AI-driven or large-deal narratives rather than broad sector strength" he further said.

Mid-tier IT firms and GCCs emerge as prolific recruiters

"Mid-tier IT firms showed steady resilience in Q2 FY26, with hiring activity rising across emerging skill areas like AI, cloud, and digital engineering. Tier-II and Tier-III cities recorded over 50% growth in IT hiring during the first half of the year, reflecting a clear shift in where talent is being built. While the overall sentiment remains cautious, mid-tier players are focusing on selective, high-skill hiring and workforce efficiency rather than large-scale additions," said Kapil Joshi, CEO – IT Staffing, Quess Corp.

LTIMindtree added 2,558 employees in Q2, and the company's trailing 12-month attrition was 14.2% in the second quarter. Coforge global headcount stood at 34,896 as of September 30, 2025. It added 790 people during the quarter and its IT attrition stood at 11.4%, which continues to be among the lowest in the IT services industry.

Amid widespread talent reshuffling across the IT industry, mid-tier firms are entering a strong ramp-up phase, said Sachin Alug, CEO, NLB Services.

Mid-sized IT firms and GCCs (Global Capability Centres) are emerging as prolific recruiters, especially in domains like AI, cloud, and cybersecurity. With anticipations of steady client requirements, these mid-sized players are eying a consistent growth in talent acquisition during the second half of the current fiscal year while keeping attrition lower than their larger counterparts. The sectors fuelling this growth are primarily BFSI, automotive, and the public sector, to name a few, added Alug.

In this year, mid-tier IT companies are shifting focus from scale to specialisation and agility.

"With digital transformation accelerating, they are investing in talent that delivers high-impact solutions across emerging technologies. Key skill areas in demand include AI/ML & GenAI for intelligent automation and product innovation; Cloud platforms (AWS, Azure, GCP) for scalable, secure infrastructure; and cybersecurity to safeguard data and meet compliance standards, among others," said Sanketh Chengappa - Director and Business Head, Professional Staffing at the Adecco Group.

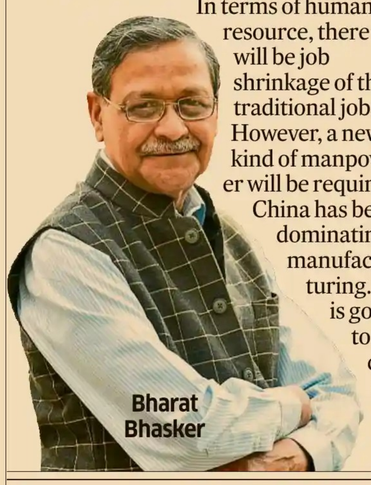
India needs skilled manpower to become infrastructure builder for AI: IIM-A Director

India targets to unveil home-grown artificial intelligence (AI) models by February next year. Startups and academia have been playing a critical role driving innovation in this sector. The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad has come out with dedicated programmes to bridge skill gaps in the areas of AI and business analytics. In an interview with **Gyanendra Keshri** of *DH*, IIM Ahmedabad Director **Bharat Bhasker** talks about the development of India's indigenous AI models and its impact on the country's economy, especially manufacturing. Edited excerpts:

The US and China have taken the lead in the development of AI models. India seems to have lagged behind. India's home-grown AI model is targeted to be unveiled by February. How do you see this development?

India has been a physical and IT infrastructure provider for the world. We have built physical infrastructure for West Asia. We have built the whole IT infrastructure and IT services for the West. We need to re-train our human resources to become the infrastructure builder for AI. Complete reorientation is required to become a leader in AI as well. We are talking about Viksit Bharat (developed India). That means we can't be just building for others. We need to build within the country the whole infrastructure. Data centres, cloud services, conglomerate building, all have to happen here, which will be driving the AI technology. The government is trying to set up 10,000 GPU data centres. How do we take advantage of that? We need human resources, which will be able to build these applications and then take those applications globally. That is the big challenge in front of us.

How do you see its impact on the economy?



In terms of human resource, there will be job shrinkage of the traditional jobs. However, a newer kind of manpower will be required. China has been dominating manufacturing. AI is going to create some good opportunities for India in the manufacturing sector. Today, because of technology, boundaries are getting blurred. You see many start-ups are working simultaneously from California and Bengaluru. They are using the common infrastructure. If we develop the right AI infrastructure, we will have several advantages over other countries.

What kind of new jobs will be created in manufacturing?

The AI is going to bring disruptions. The number of workforce will not be in the same proportionate as it used to be in the earlier time. In order to maintain the quality and efficiency, industries have to opt for automation. So, you can't say I have cheaper labour so I will do manufacturing. Skilled, competitive labour will be required. There will be customised manufacturing. For that machines will be required to be trained. You will be required to train and adjust the assembly line for flexibility. This will require different kinds of human resources. Skill levels are going to change and that is why you need to prepare more and more workforce with the AI capability or AI skill levels where they are able to take advantage.

What needs to be done to bridge the skill gap in the sector?

With more and more companies and organisations opting for AI, the demand for skilled manpower in the sector is going to rise. This will put further pressure on the skill gap. The IIM Ahmedabad has launched a new programme in AI and business analytics. Other IIMs and academic institutions are also coming up with their own courses. Once the framework is set, private institutions will also follow as it happened in the case of computers and IT. India has the manpower and brainpower — we just need direction and structure to develop the right skills.

Why do we see very few successful innovations coming from academic campuses in India?

This used to be the case. But things are changing. We should expect a huge amount of innovations coming from campuses, especially in AI. We have an IIM venture located here at IIM Ahmedabad campus. It is doing wonderful work in the AI field. The IIM venture has come out with an application which uses AI to optimise power consumption in ATMs. We are doing it with SBI on an experimental basis. It can be scaled up if SBI decides to do that.

NCLT approves merger of Suzuki Motor units

NEW DELHI, PTI: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved the scheme of amalgamation, in which Suzuki Motor Gujarat is being merged with its parent entity, Maruti Suzuki India, the country's largest carmaker.

A two-member bench of the Delhi-based Principal bench of NCLT has approved the joint petition filed by Suzuki Motor Gujarat Pvt Ltd (Transferor Company) and Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (Transferee Company) and proposed the appointed date for the scheme of amalgamation on April 1, 2025.

Noting that the scheme is in the interest of both petitioner companies, their shareholders, creditors, employees, and all concerned, the tribunal said there appears to be no impediment in sanctioning the present scheme.

It observed that the I-T Department has filed their no further objections before this tribunal pertaining to the scheme being considered.

HEALTH FOR ALL

SOUKYA International forays into affordable healthcare segment

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

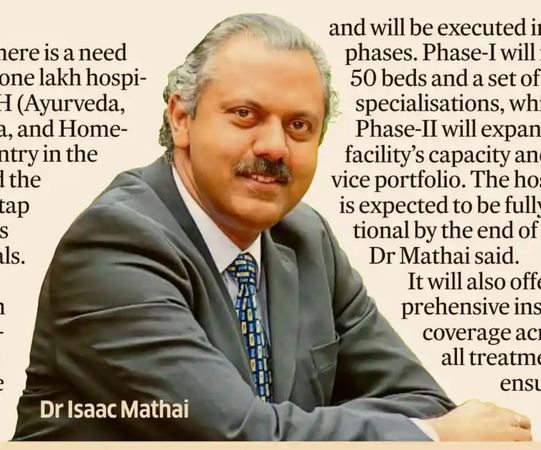
SOUKYA International Holistic Health Centre, globally acclaimed for its premium holistic therapies, is foraying into the affordable healthcare segment with its first 100-bed integrated AYUSH hospital in Bengaluru at an investment of Rs 125 crore.

It also plans to achieve a 1,000-bed hospital network in the next five years. The expansion includes opening AYUSH hospitals in Chennai, Hyderabad and other southern cities.

The investment includes Rs 50 crore for land acquisition and Rs 75 crore towards the construction and development of the unit. The upcoming facility, spread over 6 acres, combines Allopathy, Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Naturopathy, Siddha, Unani, and Yoga. This facility is aimed at making holistic, integrative care accessible to a wider community, Dr Isaac Mathai, Founder of SOUKYA, told *DH*.

"We aim to expand our network into various cities in South India and reach a size of 1,000 beds in five years. We will either set up hospitals on our own or through a management contract with investors, real estate firms," he said.

He added that there is a need for having at least one lakh hospital beds for AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Sidha, and Homeopathy) in the country in the next ten years, and the company plans to tap this market with its network of hospitals.



Construction of the new hospital in Hoskote near Bengaluru is expected to begin within the next 6-9 months and will be executed in two phases. Phase-I will include 50 beds and a set of core specialisations, while Phase-II will expand the facility's capacity and service portfolio. The hospital is expected to be fully functional by the end of FY 27, Dr Mathai said.

It will also offer comprehensive insurance coverage across all treatments, ensuring complete and inclusive care.

The 100-bed hospital in Bengaluru will provide advanced integrative care across multiple disciplines, including cancer rehabilitation, respiratory disorders, lifestyle and metabolic conditions, pediatric developmental disorders, reproductive health, neurological and musculoskeletal disorders, gastrointestinal diseases, and addictive behaviours. Each treatment pathway will combine modern medical expertise with traditional systems, offering a comprehensive, patient-centric approach to healing, Dr Mathai said.

SOUKYA is also looking at expanding its network through both management and operational models. "There is a significant potential to open AYUSH hospitals across key cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, and in Kerala, which are rapidly emerging as strong AYUSH markets. We plan to expand through both management and operational models, allowing flexibility in how we grow while ensuring consistency in care delivery," he said.

There has already been encouraging interest from potential partners for collaborative models, and the company is currently evaluating options," Dr Mathai said.

TOP PICKS

The data is sourced from Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited

L&T Finance
(ID: L&TFINANCE)
BUY
Upside +10%**
Last close ₹304
Target: ₹330*

Rubicon Research
(ID: RUBICON)
BUY
Upside +18%**
Last close ₹626
Target: ₹740*

Bharat Electronics
(ID: BEL)
BUY
Upside +21%**
Last close ₹414
Target: ₹500*

Waaree Energies
(ID: WAAREEENER)
BUY
Upside +22%**
Last close ₹3,273
Target: ₹4,000*

Tata Cons Products
(ID: TATACONSUM)
BUY
Upside +24%**
Last close ₹1,167
Target: ₹1,450*

* Target price has been calculated on the basis of fundamentals ** Upside refers to more value stock is expected to generate than its current price

Why it is time to focus on big financial goals

MRIN AGARWAL
FINANCIAL EDUCATOR & FOUNDER, FINSAFE INDIA PVT LTD

These days the hot topic in personal finance on social media seems to be on credit card points optimisation. This has led to many queries on how one can get free trips from credit card reward points. Of course it feels nice to get free flights or get discounts by redeeming credit card points, but this often leads to people losing sight of the much bigger picture, long-term financial stability.

Most of these hacks get people to believe they are financially savvy. But saving a few hundred rupees here and there, rarely moves the needle when it comes to the overall financial life. Focusing too much on micro-wins can mean higher spending as it is only when one has high spends that one can get high reward points. People end up spending Rs 60,000-70,000 per month in order to get a complimentary hotel stay. The focus also shifts from real financial goals like retirement, home purchase, etc to these short term benefits, giving the feeling that one is financially active. However, these activities are good to have but do not really mean much from a wealth building perspective.

Monitoring multiple credit cards, tracking offers, and managing reward expirations is also very time consuming. Financial freedom comes from planning and preparation. And preparation doesn't come from cashback apps. It comes from consistent saving, thoughtful investing, and goal-based planning. Also, the small amounts saved through cashbacks get spent over being invested. The same amount, invested regularly, compounds into something meaningful over time.

Another area of small wins remains intraday trading and IPOs. Both these options can make people feel they can make good returns in a short period, but the fact is that these are small wins. As per data from SEBI, over 70% of intraday traders in equity cash segment incurred losses in FY 2022-23. Most IPOs these days come with lofty valuations and leave very little on the table for investors. Worse, most IPOs provide exit to existing investors and do not use the funds to grow the company. Moreover, with the level of oversubscription in these IPOs, the number of shares allotted are minimal and even if they list at a huge premium, the abolsute profits remain inconsequential.

All these small, adrenaline fueled wins are speculative in nature and will not make one financially secure. Individuals need to reflect if these wins, which make them feel good for the moment, really help them build wealth. With the changing economic environment, the need of the hour is to prioritise financial security.

Why vigilance in personal finance matters

Vigilance today starts at home

KUMAR PRASAD

Even though Vigilance Awareness is observed once a year to remind us of our duty in building a fair, transparent, and corruption-free society, its message remains relevant throughout the year. Vigilance is not limited to institutions or public offices; it begins with each individual. While public vigilance often focuses on holding systems accountable, one crucial dimension is frequently overlooked: vigilance in our personal financial behaviour.

In a rapidly digitising economy, financial safety is no longer only the government's duty; it is equally a citizen's responsibility. The recent rise in digital frauds, unauthorised transactions, online scam investments, and misuse of personal data underscores the need for Indians to stay alert and financially disciplined.

Vigilance today starts at home with how we earn, spend, save, invest, and transfer wealth.

First, our vigilance must begin with how we earn. Whether salaried or self-employed, individuals must ensure their income is legally earned, properly documented, and routed through compliant channels. Blindly signing as guarantor, handing over personal financial credentials, or engaging in unregulated freelance work can cause long-term damage. Awareness about salary deductions, timely deposit of PF and TDS, and checking data on AIS/26AS are essential steps in safeguarding one's financial rights.

Second, prudence in spending is a crucial aspect of financial vigilance. Consumers today are constantly targeted with easy loans, buy-now-pay-later schemes, and EMIs even on lifestyle purchases such as vacations and events. Reckless spending behaviour, especially driven by digital convenience, can lead to debt traps. Individuals must differentiate needs from wants and insist on proper invoices for every purchase, not only to protect their consumer rights but also to discourage tax evasion and leakages in the economy.

Third, vigilance in saving and investing can determine the future financial security of a family. Unverified high-return schemes, unregulated chit funds, and speculative trading continue to cause widespread losses. Basic financial awareness understanding risk, inflation, diversification, regulatory oversight and suitability to goals is essential before committing one's lifetime savings. Money must work even when we stop working, and that is possible only with informed investment decisions.

Fourth, compliance in tax matters is not merely a legal requirement but an ethical responsibility. False deduction claims and fraudulent refund practices may appear harmless, but today's data-driven tax administration system reliably detects discrepancies. Honest self-assessment ensures peace of mind and strengthens national financial governance.

Finally, vigilance extends to ensuring smooth succession of wealth. A large number of family disputes in India arise due to absence of Wills, missing nominations, and poorly documented assets. Estate planning including maintaining updated records and a properly drafted Will is a simple step that can prevent emotional and financial distress for future generations.

Vigilance in personal finance is not just about detecting frauds or preventing losses. It creates a financially resilient household, promotes a culture of compliance, and contributes to the economic integrity of the nation. When citizens are alert and responsible with their own finances, the overall governance ecosystem becomes stronger.

Let us therefore treat vigilance in personal finance not as a campaign for a week, but as a conscious, lifelong habit, one that protects both individual wellbeing and national integrity.

(The writer is Chartered Accountant & Partner at Balakrishna and Co)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Markets likely to remain range-bound

Last leg of quarterly results will be in focus this week

SIDDHARHA KHEMKA

This week, Indian equities are expected to remain range-bound tracking mixed global cues, while optimism around better than expected corporate earnings and any progress in India–US trade talks could provide upside support. This week focus will be on the last leg of quarterly results from index heavyweights including Bajaj Finance, TATA Steel, ONGC, Asian Paints, Hero Motocorp. Key macro events to watch include the US CPI, India's WPI, and UK GDP data, which could provide direction to the market.

Last week, Nifty ended with a loss of 230 points at 25,492 (-0.9%) amid profit booking after healthy gains witnessed in October. The broader market showed signs of consolidation, as the Nifty Midcap100 ended flat while the Nifty Smallcap100 edged down 0.1%. Nifty PSU Banks index continued its upward momentum, with gains of 2% supported by strong results, supportive policy developments and plans of fund raise.

Earnings momentum showed steady progress in 2QFY26. For the Nifty, earnings of the 27 companies that reported till October 31, 2025, grew 5% YoY, in line with our estimates of 6%. We expect overall Nifty PAT to grow around 6% YoY in 2QFY26 and EPS growth of 9%/16% in FY26/FY27. Across the Motilal Oswal Research coverage universe, earnings of 151 companies that had reported their numbers, grew 14% YoY, ahead of our estimate of 9%. Multiple mid-cap sectors clocked impressive growth, including PSU Banks, Real Estate, NBFCs, Technology, Cement and Metals.

Meanwhile, discussions on the India–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) have entered an advanced stage, with a senior European Union delegation in New Delhi from November 3–7 to finalise key trade and investment frameworks.

After two quarters of easing competition, both Eternal and Swiggy are shifting focus back to growth, supported by fresh fundraises and renewed discount intensity. Though this resembles last year's aggressive phase, the current cycle appears more controlled with fewer dark-store additions and improving store efficiency. Swiggy's orders per store are expected to rise ₹30% YoY, supporting margin gains. The food delivery segment continues to be a stable duopoly with healthy 20–22% gross order value growth visibility.

India's home broadband based (HBB) market has surged nearly 3x to over 56 million subscribers as of September 2025, driven by affordable plans, hybrid work adoption, and OTT demand. Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio dominate with ₹62% market share, contributing ₹86% of incremental net additions since 2019. With penetration still low at ₹3–4%, the market is expected to double to Rs 65,000 crore by CY28, led by expanding fixed wireless access (FWA) and rising ARPU. Overall, India's telecom sector stands on a strong structural foundation.

The Indian IPO market continues to gain traction, supported by strong investor interest Lenskart (28x oversubscribed), Studds (73x) and Groww (15x). Upcoming IPOs such as PhysicsWallah, and Mahamaya Lifescience further highlight a healthy pipeline. Markets are likely to remain range-bound with a mild positive bias, as investors track global developments and foreign fund flows.

(The writer is Head of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd)

Mcap of 7 of top-10 most valued firms erodes by Rs 88k cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: The combined market valuation of seven of the top-10 most valued firms eroded by Rs 88,635.28 crore in a holiday-shortened last week, with Bharti Airtel and Tata Consultancy Services taking the biggest hit, in line with the weak trend in equities.

In a holiday-shortened last week, the BSE benchmark tanked 722.43 points or 0.86%, and the Nifty declined by 229.8 points or 0.89%.

While Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), ICICI Bank, Infosys and Hindustan Unilever faced erosion from their valuation, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) were the gainers from the top-10 pack.

The market valuation of Bharti Airtel tumbled Rs 30,506.26 crore to Rs 11,41,048.30 crore.

TCS faced an erosion of Rs 23,680.38 crore from its valuation, which stood at Rs 10,82,658.42 crore.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of Hindustan Unilever dropped by Rs 12,253.12 crore to Rs 5,67,308.81 crore, and that of Reliance Industries declined by Rs 11,164.29 crore to Rs 20,00,437.77 crore.

HDFC Bank's mcap dipped by Rs 7,303.93 crore to Rs 15,11,375.21 crore, and that of Infosys edged lower by Rs 2,139.52 crore to Rs 6,13,750.48 crore.

The valuation of ICICI Bank declined by Rs 1,587.78 crore to Rs 9,59,540.08 crore.

However, the mcap of LIC climbed Rs 18,469 crore to Rs 5,84,366.54 crore.

The market valuation of State Bank of India jumped Rs 17,492.02 crore to Rs 8,82,400.89 crore, and that of Bajaj Finance went up by Rs 14,965.08 crore to Rs 6,63,721.32 crore.

Reliance Industries remained the most valued domestic firm, followed by HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, TCS, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance, Infosys, LIC and Hindustan Unilever.

Bankers see Reliance's Jio value as high as $170 billion

BLOOMBERG

Investment bankers are proposing a valuation of as much as $170 billion for Jio Platforms Ltd., according to people familiar with the matter, ahead of what could be a record-breaking initial public offering for Reliance Industries Ltd.'s wireless carrier.

A valuation size that would place Jio among the biggest two or three companies in India by market capitalisation, ahead of fellow telecom firm Bharti Airtel Ltd., which is valued at about Rs 12.7 trillion ($143 billion). Reliance Industries, controlled by Mukesh Ambani, is far ahead at about Rs 20 trillion.

Talks with bankers are ongoing and the proposals for Jio range as wide as $130 billion to $170 billion, the people said, asking not to be identified because the discussions are private.

Ambani, Asia's wealthiest person, said in August the Jio listing could happen in the first half of 2026. It's been years in the making, considering he spoke about a potential IPO as far back as 2019. Meta Platforms Inc. and Alphabet Inc. announced investments totaling more than $10 billion in Jio the following year.

Jio's share sale is set to be Reliance's first public offering of a major business unit since Reliance Petroleum Ltd.'s debut in 2006.

While it was initially expected the Jio IPO could raise over $6 billion, smashing the record $3.3 billion offering by Hyundai Motor India Ltd. in 2024, the amount is likely to be lower following a change to Indian listing regulations.

Under the revised rules, companies with a post-listing market capitalization exceeding Rs 5 trillion need to offer shares worth at least 150 billion rupees and dilute only 2.5% of equity. For Jio, that would amount to about $4.3 billion if it achieves the top-end valuation proposal.

Details of Jio's offering are still being discussed, the people said.

A Reliance representative didn't immediately comment.

Jio had about 506 million subscribers as of the end of September and average revenue per user was Rs 211.40 in the quarter through that month, while Bharti Airtel's subscriber base was about 450 million with average revenue per user of Rs 256.

Rapido to start working on IPO by 2026-end

NEW DELHI, PTI: Bike taxi aggregator Rapido expects to start working on the process for public listing by the end of next year, a top company official said.

Rapido Co-Founder Aravind Sanka told PTI that the company expects to maintain its growth rate of 100% year-on-year for the next few years and be a much larger player compared to its nearest competitor before going for the initial public offering (IPO).

"We just want to grow further before thinking about markets. Right now, our idea is how do we grow further... We have been growing 100% in the last two years. We want to at least continue that growth rate for a few more years and then think of the market," he said.

On whether Rapido is looking to start preparing for the initial public offering after two years, Sanka said the timelines keep changing every quarter depending on the firm's performance but the company wants to be ready irrespective of the way things are outside.

PhysicsWallah bullish on online education

NEW DELHI, PTI: Edtech unicorn PhysicsWallah, which remains bullish on the online medium of education, is also betting big on its offline expansion by opening new learning centres in cities where demand is high, its co-founder and CEO Alakh Pandey said.

The company plans to set up centres in several new locations, including Muzaffarpur (Bihar), Dhanbad (Jharkhand), Akola and Latur (Maharashtra), Rajkot (Gujarat), Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh), Bhatinda (Punjab), Jorhat (Assam), and Chennai (Tamil Nadu), according to the draft papers.

Explaining the strategy, Pandey said the company is following a hyperlocal approach, setting up city-level hubs and learning centres in regions where it currently lacks a direct presence.

This move will allow students to access PhysicsWallah's services in their own hometowns, reducing the need to migrate to larger cities for quality coaching, he added.

As of June 30, 2025, the company operated 303 offline centres across 152 cities in India and the Middle East, up from 182 centres a year earlier.

DH REVIEW

Google Pixel Buds 2a: Well-rounded TWS earphones

ROHIT K V N
BENGALURU, DHNS

Google's new Pixel Buds 2a True Wireless Stereo (TWS) earphones succeed the first-generation Pixel Buds A series, which was launched way back in 2021.

It comes with big upgrades, including longer battery life, reliable performance and Active Noise Cancellation (ANC), a first for the A-series model. Here are our thoughts on Google's latest earbuds.

Design and Build Quality

The Pixel Buds 2a charging case carries forward the smooth, pebble-like design of previous versions in a more compact form.

It has a matte finish for a good grip for the hands, but it gets stained quite easily. Our review unit is the Hazel variant, with an ivory white case and dark grey earbuds inside. An 'Iris' variant is also available, featuring light purple-hued earbuds. The earbuds are lighter and sleeker than their predecessors, weighing 4.7 g each.

Compared to the predecessor, the wing tip of Pixel Buds 2a is smaller and ergonomically redesigned. Called the stabilising fin, it offers a twist-to-adjust mechanism to offer a secure, comfortable fit and seal it as much as possible to block outside noise from entering the ears. For most people, the pre-applied medium eartips fit snugly even during extended wear in humid conditions. The box also comes with three more sizes of eartip sets (XS, S, and L).

The buds come with an IP54 rating for sweat and splash resistance, while the case carries an IPX4 rating. They are not waterproof but can handle workouts and light rain.

Charging is via a Type-C port only, with no wireless charging support. A pairing/reset key is on the back, while the top of each earbud has capacitive touch sensors for media control,

calls, and invoking Google's Gemini assistant.

Performance and features

Powered by the Tensor A1 chipset, new high-frequency chamber and 11 mm dynamic drivers, the Pixel Buds 2a deliver really good sound output with balanced lows and crisp vocals.

Silent Seal 1.5 technology works with ANC to reduce surrounding noise effectively. Though ANC performance doesn't match high-end TWS models above Rs 25,000, it presents strong performance in the under-Rs 15,000 range.

Clear Calling enhances voice clarity, making calls indoors crystal clear and reducing office chatter or home background noise.

However, outdoors in busy streets or during rush-hour bus commutes, I had to slightly increase the volume to hear the person on the other side of the call. The microphones capture the user's voice cleanly. And, with Bluetooth 5.4, it maintains a stable wireless connection with the companion phone.

Battery life is really good. With ANC off, it can deliver up to 10 hours of audio playback.

It can offer seven hours of listening time with ANC active. And, with the charging case, it can last for 27 hours (with ANC off), four hours more than its predecessor.

It supports fast charging; it offers an hour of listening time from just five minutes of charge.

Similar to the Pixel phones, Google uses eco-friendly materials for the components and packaging of the Pixel Buds 2a.

In terms of weight, 41% of the product is made from recycled materials.

Final thoughts

The Google Pixel Buds 2a series is a well-rounded mid-range TWS option.

It comes with a lightweight design and offers a comfortable fit to the ears. It delivers well on ANC and call quality. Strong battery performance and thoughtful software integration with Android devices make Pixel Buds 2a worth its asking price.

BBC chief resigns after row over Trump documentary

LONDON, REUTERS: The director general of Britain's BBC, Tim Davie, and the chief executive of news, Deborah Turness, have resigned following criticism that a BBC documentary misled viewers by editing a speech by US President Donald Trump.

"This is entirely my decision, and I remain very thankful to the Chair and Board for their unswerving and unanimous support throughout my entire tenure, including during recent days," Davie said in a statement, adding, "I have been reflecting on the very intense personal and professional demands of managing this role over many years in these febrile times, combined with the fact that I want to give a successor time to help shape the Charter plans they will be delivering."

Earlier on Sunday a UK government minister described as "incredibly serious" allegations over the way the BBC edited clips of US President Donald Trump in a flagship documentary programme. The comments by Culture, Media and Sport Minister Lisa Nandy came as the broadcaster said its chair Samir Shah would provide an explanation to a parliamentary committee on Monday.

Media outlets reported Sunday that the response was expected to include an apology.

US facing difficulties in convincing Zelenskyy on Kyiv peace plan: Russia

Lavrov: Nato allies trying to persuade Washington against resolving crisis

MOSCOW, PTI

US President Donald Trump (L), Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin (R). AFP FILE

The US seems to be facing headwinds in persuading Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Nato allies not to interfere with its efforts for a peaceful settlement of the Ukraine crisis, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Sunday.

Lavrov's comments came weeks after unsuccessful efforts for a summit between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart Donald Trump, as a follow up of the talks between the two leaders at Anchorage in Alaska on August 15 where they had not reached a deal to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"The Americans assured us back then (Alaska summit) that they would be able to ensure that Zelenskyy would not impede the achievement of peace. Apparently, certain difficulties have arisen on this issue," Russian Foreign Minister said in an interview.

"Furthermore, as far as we know, Brussels and London are trying to persuade Washington to abandon its intention to resolve the crisis through political and diplomatic means and fully engage in efforts to exert military pressure on Russia, that is, to finally become part of the 'war party'," he said.

Lavrov also underscored that despite the compromise reached at the summit in Anchorage, Moscow is firm on its fundamental principles: Russia's territorial integrity and the choice of the residents of Crimea, Donbass, and Novorossiya are not negotiable.

"We are now awaiting confirmation from the United States that the Anchorage agreements remain in force," Lavrov added.

Putin has repeatedly stated that Russia advocates exclusively for a long-term settlement without any temporary ceasefires and that achieving such a settlement is possible only after addressing the root causes of the conflict.

The root causes he identifies include the threats to Russia's national security arising from Nato expansion and the oppression of the Russian-speaking population in Ukraine.

The Russian Army, meanwhile, is advancing to capture strategic towns of Pokrovsk (Krasnoarmeisk) and Kupyansk where in pincer movements more than 10,000 Ukrainian troops, along with Nato advisers are blocked.

UNRESOLVED

- Russia's territorial integrity and the choice of the residents of Crimea, Donbass, and Novorossiya are not negotiable, underscored Lavrov
- Brussels and London trying to persuade US to exert military pressure on Russia, to finally become part of 'war party', Russian Foreign Minister claimed.
- Russian Army, meanwhile, is advancing to capture strategic towns of Pokrovsk (Krasnoarmeisk) and Kupyansk.

Putin did not order nuclear test, Moscow reiterates

President Vladimir Putin has not ordered a nuclear test and Russia remains committed to the moratorium on testing this weapon of mass destruction, Moscow reiterated on Sunday, days after US President Donald Trump's statement on nuclear weapons' tests, reports PTI.

"Putin has repeatedly said that Russia adheres to its obligations under the nuclear tests ban and we are not going to carry them out, but if another country does, we will have to do so to observe parity," the Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Russian TV.

"However, if Washington indeed carries out nuclear weapons tests, Russia will have to reciprocate. Nuclear parity is precisely the most important component, probably for the entire global security architecture these days," Dmitry Peskov underscored.

Ukraine scrambles for energy after Russian attacks

Ukraine was scrambling to turn lights and heating back on Sunday after Russian attacks targeting energy infrastructure, with the state's power provider saying its generating capacity was reduced to "zero", reports AFP.

Moscow, which has escalated attacks on Ukraine's infrastructure in recent months, launched hundreds of drones at energy facilities across the country overnight into Saturday.

Ukrainian strikes on Russia's own infrastructure meanwhile left more than 20,000 people without power in regions bordering Ukraine, local authorities said.

The Russian attacks interrupted electricity, heat and water supplies in several cities, with state power firm Centerenergo warning its generating capacity "is down to zero".

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Women's Royal Air Force veterans gather on Horse Guards Parade ahead of the Royal British Legion's march past the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday in London, Britain. REUTERS

After 5 years, China Eastern resumes Shanghai–Delhi flights

China Eastern Airlines started its Shanghai-Delhi service on Sunday with a 95% occupancy, becoming the first mainland Chinese carrier this year to resume direct flights to India after a gap of five years, reports PTI from Beijing.

Flight MU563, carrying 248 passengers, departed from Shanghai Pudong International Airport for Delhi, the state-run Global Times reported.

Indian airline IndiGo will begin its daily Delhi-Guangzhou service from November 10.

China Eastern becomes the first Chinese mainland-based airline in 2025 to resume direct passenger flights between China and India, the report said, adding that the Shanghai-Delhi flight achieved a load factor of over 95%.

The Shanghai-Delhi route is considered a key corridor linking two major economic centres and is expected to boost exchanges in trade, economy and culture, the report said. Flights between India and the Chinese mainland resumed on October 26 when an IndiGo aircraft landed at Guangzhou.

7 dead after migrant boat sinks

Malaysian authorities have recovered at least seven bodies after a boat carrying migrants capsized near the Thai border, a maritime agency official said on Sunday, reports AFP from Kuala Lumpur,.

Officials believe the boat was carrying undocumented migrants who departed from Myanmar, part of a group of at least 300 people that had split between several vessels.

The boat that capsized near Thailand's Tarutao Island and just north of Malaysia's island resort of Langkawi was carrying some 90 people, Kedah state police chief Adzli Abu Shah told Malaysian media.

At least 13 people have been rescued alive.

Ruby and Hagit Chen, parents of Israeli-American soldier Staff Sergeant Itay Chen, who was killed defending Kibbutz Nir Oz during the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack and whose body was taken to Gaza, salute during his funeral in Tel Aviv on Sunday. REUTERS

Police drill in Dhaka over 'unrest'

Bangladesh police has carried out a large-scale coordinated security drill at key points of the capital ahead of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's now disbanded Awami League's "Dhaka Lockdown" programme on November 13, reports PTI from Dhaka.

Several newspapers quoting unidentified sources in the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) said some 7,000 policemen took part in a drill on Saturday at 142 locations, including interim government chief Muhammad Yunus' residence, to contain possible violent street protests next week.

Witnesses reported increased police presence across Dhaka, which enhanced concerns among residents of the capital about the law and order situation on November 13. Awami League presidium member Jahangir Kabir Nanok, currently in India, has announced a "lockdown-like" protest programme for November 13.

Saudi executes 2 over terrorism

Saudi Arabia said on Sunday that it had executed two citizens for joining a terrorist group that planned to carry out attacks on places of worship, reports Reuters.

The two men also planned attacks against security facilities and personnel, Saudi state news agency SPA reported, citing a statement from the interior ministry.

The statement did not indicate when any of the attacks were planned to have taken place.

US airlines brace for third day of govt-mandated flight cuts

Reductions in flights to reach 6% on Tuesday and 10% by Nov 14

WASHINGTON, REUTERS

United Airlines airplanes taxi at Denver International Airport. The FAA has targeted 40 'high-volume' airports for flight cuts amid the government shutdown. AFP

Major airlines braced for a third day of government-mandated flight cuts Sunday after rising air traffic control staffing shortages snarled thousands of flights on Saturday.

The Federal Aviation Administration instructed airlines to cut 4% of daily flights starting on Friday at 40 major airports because of air traffic control safety concerns. The shutdown, which has reached a record 40 days, has led to shortages of air traffic controllers who, like other federal employees, have not been paid for weeks.

Reductions in flights are mandated to reach to 6% on Tuesday and then hit 10% by November 14.

The FAA said on Saturday there were air traffic control staffing shortages impacting 42 airport towers and other centers and delaying flights in at least 12 major U.S. cities including Atlanta, Newark, San Francisco, Chicago and New York.

Some 1,550 flights were canceled and 6,700 flights were delayed on Saturday, compared with Friday when 1,025 were canceled and 7,000 were delayed. Airline officials privately said the number of delay programs made it nearly impossible to schedule and plan many flights and expressed alarm about how the system would function if staffing issues worsen.

The cuts, which began on Friday morning, include about 700 flights from 4 largest carriers: American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Southwest Airlines and United Airlines.

Bodies of missing Indian father and daughter found in Nepal

KATHMANDU, PTI: The bodies of an Indian man and his teenage daughter, who visited Nepal as tourists and had gone missing since last month, were recovered from a mountain area near a monastery on Sunday, police said.

The Armed Police Force (APF) recovered the bodies of 52-year-old Jignes Kumar Lallubhai Patel and his 17-year-old daughter from near Maleripa Monastery at Disyang in Manang district, AFP deputy spokesperson Shailendra Thapa said.

The duo had left Gyalsen Hotel at Disyang on October 20, informing the hotel staff that they were going to the Maleripa Monastery.

When they failed to return, the hotel staff informed the Nepal Mountain Rescue Training School in Manang and sought assistance in locating them.

'Committed' to talks with Taliban to resolve differences: Pak

ISLAMABAD, PTI

Pakistan said on Sunday that it was committed to dialogue to resolve differences with the Afghan Taliban but demanded that Kabul must address concerns regarding the use of its territory by terrorists.

Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson Tahir Andrabi issued a statement on different media queries regarding the third round of talks with the Afghan Taliban regime in Istanbul on November 6, which concluded a day later.

Turkiye and Qatar mediated the parleys.

The peace talks ended without any agreement to tackle the thorny issues of cross-border terrorism, the top officials had said on Saturday.

"Pakistan remains committed to the resolution of bilateral differences through dialogue. However, Pakistan's core concern, i.e. terrorism emanating from Afghanistan, needs to be addressed first and foremost," the FO said in a statement.

It also said that Pakistan's Armed Forces and its people were well determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from its soil and take action against its supporters, abettors and financiers.

In the long statement, the spokesperson said that for the past four years, since the Taliban regime came to power in Afghanistan, there has been a sharp surge in terrorist attacks emanating from Afghan soil.

"Throughout these years, Pakistan, despite suffering military and civilian casualties, exercised maximum restraint and did not retaliate," it said.

Pakistan's expectation was that the Taliban regime would be able to control these attacks and take concrete actions against the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan/Fitna al Khawarij (TTP/FaK) elements present on Afghan soil, the FO said.

The Pakistan government last year notified the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) as "Fitna al-Khawarij", a reference to a group in earlier Islamic history which was involved in violence.

Pak's 27th Constitutional amendment seeks to clip SC powers

Pakistan's joint parliamentary committee of the Senate and National Assembly on Sunday approved the 27th constitutional amendment bill with the opposition alleging that the government was sounding "the death knell for the Supreme Court", reports PTI.

The amendment proposes a change in Article 243, seeking to abolish the 'Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee' and introduce a new 'Chief of Defence Forces.' Other proposals under the same amendment include establishing a Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) and reducing the powers of the Supreme Court.

Typhoon Fung-wong leaves 2 dead; 1 million evacuated in Philippines

MANILA(PHILIPPINES), AP: Super Typhoon Fung-wong battered the Philippines' northeastern coast ahead of landfall on Sunday, leaving at least two people dead and forcing more than a million people to evacuate from areas at risk of flash floods, landslide and tidal surges, officials said.

The typhoon could cover two-thirds of the Southeast Asian archipelago with its 1,800-kilometre-wide rain and wind band, forecasters said. It approached from the Pacific while the Philippines was still dealing with the devastation wrought by Typhoon Kalmaegi, which left at least 224 people dead in central provinces on Tuesday before pummelling Vietnam, where at least five were killed. A villager drowned in flash floods in the eastern province of Catanduanes and another died in Catbalogan city in eastern Samar province.

India, Angola pledge to deepen bilateral cooperation

LUANDA (ANGOLA), PTI

India and Angola on Sunday exchanged multiple Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) to strengthen bilateral ties on subjects like fisheries, aquaculture and marine resources during the first day of President Droupadi Murmu's official engagements in the African country.

The President is on a four-day state visit to the country between November 8-11. This is the first visit by an Indian president to Angola.

Murmu was officially welcomed at the Presidential Palace here by Angolan President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, starting with a 21-gun salute and a ceremonial guard of honour.

The two leaders later sat down for delegation-level talks, following which MOUs were exchanged between the two countries, followed by a joint reading of statements before the press.

Murmu said the partnership between India and Angola was built on "mutual trust, respect and a shared vision for the prosperity of our peoples."

She thanked the Angolan people and the government for hosting her delegation in their country and also for inviting her to attend the 50th anniversary of their independence.

President Droupadi Murmu with Angola President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço during a meeting, at Presidential Palace, Luanda. PTI

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NETTAKALLAPPA SWIMMING COMPETITION

Srihari scorches pool for three golds

Olympian, Dhinidhi & Trisha Most Valuable Swimmers

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Srihari Nataraj, Akash Mani and Chinthan S Shetty had pocketed two gold and a silver medal each before stepping on to the blocks for the final race - the men's SKINS 50m event - of the fourth Nettakallappa Swimming Competition at the Nettakallappa Aquatic Centre. here on Sunday.

With little separating the trio going into the final round, it was Srihari who touched the pad in 23.26 seconds to top the podium followed by Akash in second with a timing of 23.47s and Chinthan in third position (24.52s).

In the corresponding women's race, Dhinidhi Desinghu (27.12s) took gold by outpacing her Dolphin Aquatics mate Nina Venkatesh (27.57s) who picked up the silver and Vihitha Nayana of Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre (27.66s) earned a bronze.

Dhinidhi - the youngest Olympian at the Paris Games last year - shared the MVS award with Lakshyan Academy of Sports' Trisha S Sindhu (four gold medals each).

Results: Men: Seniors: 100m Freestyle: Akash Mani (BAC, 52.16s) 1; Chinthan S Shetty (Lakshyan Academy of Sports, 53.16s) 2; Dhoneesh N (Vijayanagar Aquatic Centre, 54.01s) 3. **100m Breaststroke**: Vidith S Shankar (Dolphin Aquatics, 1:06.34) 1; Surya Jhoyappa (BAC, 1:06.52) 2; Suneesh S 9Global Swim Centre, 1:06.56) 3.
Group I: 100m Freestyle: Dhakshan S (BAC, 53.73s) 1; Monish PV (BAC, 54.09s) 2; Dharshan S (BAC, 54.16) 3. **100m Breaststroke**: Vishagan Saravanan (BAC, 1:07.65) 1; Yash H Pal (BAC, 1:08.40) 2; Ayush Shivaraju Maganahalli (Dolphin Aquatics, 1:10.00) 3. **400m Freestyle**: Dhakshan S (BAC, 4:13.30) 1; Dharshan S (BAC, 4:13.57) 2; Monish PV (BAC, 4:14.08) 3.
Group II: 100m Freestyle: Sharan S (BAC, 55.22s) 1; Kabilan T (Matsya INC, 56.30s) 2; Jeevamsh Subrahmanya (Matsya INC, 57.98s) 3. **100m Breaststroke**: Chetan Nagaraja Ganapa (NAC, 1:12.72) 1; Siddhanth B Singh (PMSC, 1:13.50) 2; Reyansh Kanthi Y (BAC, 1:13.72) 3. **100m Medley**: Sharan S (BAC, 1:03.01) 1; Kabilan T (Matsya INC, 1:03.36) 2; Jeevamsh Subrahmanya (Matsya INC, 1:04.21) 3.
Group III: 100m Freestyle: Chiranth M (Ray Centre, 1:04.63) 1; Lohitashwa S Nagesh (Lakshyan Academy of Sports, 1:04.67) 2; Aarith Chandrashekar (Matsya INC, 1:05.20) 3. **100m Breaststroke**: Tanush T Murthy (BAC, 1:23.12) 1; Avyukt Mohan (BAC, 1:23.52) 2; Samarth Bharadwaj (NAC, 1:23.69) 3.
100m Medley: Rakshit A Kore (BAC, v) 1; Lohitashwa S Nagesh (Lakshyan Academy of Sports, 1:13.79) 2; Avyukt Mohan (BAC, 1:14.47) 3.
SKINS 50m Breaststroke: Vidith S Shankar (Dolphin Aquatics, 28.46s) 1; Surya Jhoyappa (BAC, 29.69s) 2; Suneesh S (GSC, 32.00s) 3.
SKINS 50m Freestyle: Srihari Nataraj (Dolphin Aquatics, 23.26s) 1; Akash Mani (BAC, 23.47s) 2; Chinthan S Shetty (Lakshyan Academy of Sports, 24.52s) 3.
Women: Seniors: 100m Freestyle: Shalini R Dixit (BAC, 52.16s) 1; Shirin (BAC, 1:01.01) 2; Shrungi Rajesh Bandekar (Jain College, 1:02.45) 3. **100m Breaststroke**: Lakshya Shivananda (BAC, 1:17.27) 1; Lineysha AK (Dolphin Aquatics, 1:18.07) 2; Yashvi Kharat (Global Swim Centre, 1:19.15) 3.
Group I: 100m Freestyle: Dhinidhi Desinghu (Dolphin Aquatics, 57.42s) 1; Rujula S (Dolphin Aquatics, 1:00.41) 2; Priyanshi Misra (BAC, 1:00.94) 3. **100m Breaststroke**: Manavi Varma (Dolphin Aquatics, 1:18.52) 1; Hiya Manchanda (Bullblasty Aquatics, 1:22.91) 2; Tisya Sonar (BAC, 1:23.22) 3. **400m Freestyle**: Dhinidhi Desinghu (Dolphin Aquatics, 4:29.22) 1; Shirin (BAC, 4:38.22) 2; Adithi Vinayak Relekar (BAC, 4:45.49) 3.
Group II: 100m Freestyle: Trisha S Sindhu (Lakshyan Academy of Sports, 1:01.97) 1; Idika Bhat (Zee Swim Academy, 1:04.91) 2; Ira Bhat (Zee Swim Academy, 1:05.68) 3. **100m Breaststroke**: Siri Preetham (Ekalavya Sports Academy, 1:21.84) 1; Inchara Hr (Lakshyan Academy of Sports, 1:22.09) 2; Manya R Wadhwa (Dolphin Aquatics, 1:22.88) 3.
100m Medley: Trisha S Sindhu (Lakshyan Academy of Sports, 1:09.96) 1; Manya R Wadhwa (Dolphin Aquatics, 1:10.57) 2; Idika Bhat (Zee Swim Academy, 1:13.70) 3.
Group III: 100m Freestyle: Stuti Singh (BSA, 1:05.05) 1; Shreya Suresh Pujar (BSA, 1:07.71) 2; Vidula R (NAC, 1:08.37) 3. **100m Breaststroke**: Drithi Abhilash (BAC, 1:27.08) 1; Shreya Suresh Pujar (BSA, 1:27.55) 2; Riddhi Maheshwari (PM Swimming Centre, 1:28.70) 3.
100m Medley: Stuti Singh (BSA, 1:14.86) 1; Shreya Suresh Pujar (BSA, 1:15.23) 2; Jharna Sisodiya (Ekalavya Sports Academy, 1:15.41) 3.
SKINS 50m Breaststroke: Lakshya Shivananda (BAC, 34.12s) 1; Lineysha AK (Dolphin Aquatics, 35.24s) 2; Yashvi Kharat (GSC, 35.79) 3.
SKINS 50m Freestyle: Dhinidhi Desinghu (Dolphin Aquatics, 27.12s) 1; Nina Venkatesh (Dolphin Aquatics, 27.57s) 2; Vihitha Nayana (BAC, 27.66s) 3.

Most Valuable Swimmers of Nettakallappa Swimming Competition (from left) Trisha S Sindhu, Dhinidhi Desinghu (female - both tied with four gold) and Srihari Nataraj (male - 3 gold, 1 silver) pose with their spoils at the Nettakallappa Aquatic Centre in Bengaluru on Sunday. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre's Akash Mani (left) won gold in the men's 100m freestyle while Dolphin Aquatics' Nina Venkatesh topped the podium in the women's 100m Medley at the Nettakallappa Swimming Competition at the Nettakallappa Aquatic Centre in Bengaluru on Sunday. DH PHOTOS/ PUSHKAR V

We should get incentives at nationals and state meets, says Srihari

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Passion, talent, hard work and discipline. Indian athletes have them in abundance. But for those chasing sporting dreams, an essential fuel is money which is hard to get.

Swimming in the country is one of the many disciplines that has a big gap between the swimmers' efforts and the incentives they get. Stories of parents selling property, taking loans or relying on funds from near and dear ones to support their children's careers are dime a dozen.

So when an event offers monetary rewards, it is not just welcomed but also celebrated by the swimming community.

"It's the only tournament in the country that gives out money right away or even gives out money to be honest," said Srihari Nataraj of the Nettakallappa Swimming Competition which concluded here on Sunday.

India's top swimmer and two-time Olympian won the Most Valuable Swimmer award that had a cash bonus of Rs 25,000 for finishing with three gold and a silver in the two-day meet.

"I can swim the Nationals and I don't make this much money. So definitely that's a bonus for us. Even though it's not what cricketers or tennis players or badminton players make, it's still a huge motivation."

The fourth edition of the year-end swimming bash had 300 participants competing in the seniors and three age-group categories (I, II, III). Cash rewards were given to the top three medallists in the long-format (100m and 400m) time-trial races, as well as all eight finalists in the SKINS (50m) events.

"Most of us have to look to private clubs or private sponsors to sustain or to access certain things. We should get an incentive from our nationals, from our state meets but that hasn't happened. If a private event such as this can do it, why can't the other events follow? A structure needs to come into place and there needs to be a change.

"I'm now 24, (will turn) 25 soon and I'm trying to make that money at a competition (at this stage). The ball is rolling privately but nothing is happening otherwise. I know I made some controversial statements but I think I have to," Srihari told *DH*.

Vidit, Narayanan exit as Karthik advances

MANISHA MOHITE

The spate of upsets continued on the third-round tie-break day of the FIDE World Cup in Goa. Another Indian stalwart Vidit Gujrathi, also an Elo 2700-plus player, was eliminated by Sam Shankland of the USA, losing in the second set of the Rapid tie-break after drawing the first set.

Three Indians fought in the tie-breaks on the day and only Karthik Venkataraman advanced. SL Narayanan, another talented Indian, was eliminated by Yu Yangyi (0.5-1.5), losing the first game of the Rapid tie-break and then having to settle for a draw in the second game. Narayanan, who was playing black, suffered a reversal in another marathon game that lasted 125 moves.

Karthik was in fine form through both the Rapid tie-break games played on the day and though he let slip a victory in the first game against Daniel Deac Bogdan, he managed to romp home the victory in the very next game.

Karthik has been the most impressive amongst the Indians, enjoying an Elo 2600-plus rating.

"The Classical game against Deac didn't go too well but I somehow managed to defend," said Karthik. "But in both the rapid games I played well. I don't know if I was objectively winning in the first game but I was clearly better. The second game was also smooth.

"Chess players are not used to playing this kind of format. Normally, it is Swiss or round robin and one can relax a bit. But here you are always under pressure that you can be eliminated and that pressure is a lot to handle."

Vidit, meanwhile, started the tiebreaker with a full point in the opening rapid game against Shankland, beating the American in 75 moves. In the second game, Vidit made a mistake with a queen exchange under time pressure and lost the game in 49 moves, taking the match into a second set of rapid games. He then lost the sixth game with white pieces in 61 moves and was knocked out.

Meanwhile, Frenchman Maxime Vachier-Lagrave was severely tested by Vladislav Artemiev before prevailing in the Armageddon to enter the fourth round after a gruelling five-set tie-break.

Round 3 tie-break results (India only): GM Yangyi Yu (CHN) bt GM SL Narayanan; GM Vidit Gujrathi lt to GM Sam Shankland (USA); GM Bogdan-Daniel Deac (ROU) lt to GM Karthik Venkataraman

Karthik Venkataraman was the sole Indian to win his third-round Rapid tie-break in the FIDE World Cup on Sunday. FIDE

Valiant Stream claims Bengaluru City Police Cup

BENGALURU RESULTS

Suleiman Attaollahi-trained Valiant Stream, ridden by Sandesh, won the Bengaluru City Police Cup, the feature event of the winter races on Sunday.
1. Jog Falls Plate (Div-II) - 1400M: Rosaline (Joydeep Datta Gupta) Antony Raj 1; Adelanto (G Praveen) 2; Divo (Jagadeesh) 3; Divine Proptector (Ramu) 4; WB: 1-1/2, 3/4, 2-1/4L. T: 1-27.90. Tote: Rs 19w; Rs 12, 15, 13p; Fc: Rs 144; Q: Rs 107; Shp: Rs 44: Thp: Rs 36: Tri: Rs 311 & 103. Exacta: Rs 835 & 425. TB: Arjun Mangalorkar. Fav: Rosaline.
2. World Cancer Awareness Day Plate - 1200M: True Gold (Mahmood Khan) Vishwa 1; Estefania (Aleemuddin) 2; N R I Gold (Pavan) 2, Empesss Bella (RN Darshan). WB: Nk, 4, 1-1/2L. T: 1-15.07. Tote: Rs 49w; Rs 17, 15, 45p; Fc: Rs 362; Q: Rs 112; Shp: Rs 35; Thp: Rs 75: Tri: Rs 4,630 & 2,480; Exacta: Rs 53,510 & 11,466. TB: M Rajendra Singh. Fav: Legendary Impact.
3. Jog Falls Plate Plate (Div-I) - 1400M: Xanthe (Aryama Sindaram) Sandesh 1; Eagle Eye (Alex Rozario) 2; Glorious Strides (Vikrant) 3; Hyperdrive (Pavan) 4; WB: 3/4, 1, 5-1/4L. 1-26.06. Tote: Rs 32w; Rs 12, 12, 13p; Fc: Rs 58; Q: Rs 19; Shp: 38; Thp: Rs 29; Tri: Rs 137 & 95; Ex: Rs 218 & 102. TB: Suliiman Attollahi. Fav: Eagle Eye.
4. Udupi Plate - 1400M: Lux Aeterna (Sarainaga Racing Ltd) Sandesh 1; Aquastic (J Chinoy) 2; Disciple (Antony Raj) 3; D Fronx (Sai Kiran) 4. WB: 6-3/4, 2, 3L. T: 1-24.82. Tote: Rs 19w; Rs 14, 23, 15p; Fc: Rs 169; Q: 86; Shp: Rs 54; Thp: Rs 41; Tri: Rs 302 & 105; Ex: Rs 1,480 & 831. TB: Suleiman Attaollahi. Fav: Lux Aeterna.
5. TB Hanumanthraj Memorial Trophy - 1200M: Ziva (Lakshman Gowda) Suhas 1; Pole Star (Mukesh Kumar) 2; See The Light (Sandesh) 3; Thessalian(Vinod SDhinde) 4.. WB: 1, Shd, 4-1/4L. T: 1-12.20. Rs 142w; Rs 26, 12, 12p; Fc 485; Q: Rs 237; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 50; Tri: Rs 631 & 316; Ex: Rs 3,130 & 1,520. TB: Lokanath. Fav: Pole Star.
6. Bangalore City Police Cup -1400M: Valiant Stream (Shapoor Mistry) Sandesh 1; Agrador (Alex Rozario) 2; Jade Mountain (Vinod Shinde) 3; Stella Maris (Mukesh Kumar) 4; WB: 4-1/4, 6L, Lnk.. T: 1.24.87. Tote: Rs 49w; Rs 17, 10, 18p; Fc: Rs 117; Q: Rs 47; Shp: Rs 35; Thp: Rs 32; Tri: Rs 539 & 337; Ex: Rs 2,670 & 1,358. TB: Suleiman Attaollahi. Fav: Agrador.
7. Gomos Plate - 1400M: Efficacy (Daulat Chabria) Shreyas Singh 1; Inspire (Antony Raj) 2; Victoria Doresaani (Alex Rozario) 3; Booster Shot (Kiran Rai) 4. WB: 3/4, 4-1/2, 3-1/2L T: 1-23.66. Tote: Rs 30w; Rs 17, 13, 13p; Fc: Rs 78; Q: Rs 38; Shp: Rs 34; Thp: Rs 48: Tri: Rs 142 & 55; Exacta: Rs 1,453 & 679.. TB: Suleiman Attaollahi. Fav: Inspire.
8. Malaprabha Plate - 1200M: Mister Brown (Santosh) Arvind Kumar 1; Dictator (Sandesh) 2; Glorious Sceptre (J.Chinoy) 3; Roadrunner (Hindu Singh) 4. WB: 5-1/4, 1-1/4, 2-1/4L. T: 1-12.74. Tote: Rs 25w; Rs 13, 13, 20p; Fc: Rs 66; Q: Rs 35; Shp: Rs 37; Thp: Rs 40: Tri: Rs 160 & 77; Exacta: Rs 489 & 223. TB: Pradeep Annaiah.Fav: Mister Brown.
Jackpot: Rs 16,299 (4).
Runner-up: Rs 1,693 (165). **I treble**: Rs 2,355 (5). **II treble**: Rs 403 (48).

Bengaluru emerge overall winners

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru took the top honours, winning a total of 404 medals including 135 gold, 128 silver and 141 bronze medals as 4th Karnataka Mini-Games came to a conclusion here on Sunday.

Belagavi finished second with a total of 100 medals including 28 gold, 34 silver and 38 bronze medals while Mysuru finished third with a total of 57 medals including 18 golds, 12 silvers and 27 bronzes.

The best athlete in the girls division went Poorvi T Harikantra of Uttara Kannada with 822 points while Prakul R Kundar of Udupi bagged the corresponding award in boys section with 783 points.

In all, a total of 1005 medals were won by athletes across all categories.

Winning athletes from across the state are in a jubilant mood at the closing ceremony of the 4th Karnataka Mini-Games at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru on Sunday.

Hassan, Dharwad win

Hockey Hassan posted resounding 4–0 win over Hockey Ballari in the boys' hockey final.

Prateek R Yarakal opened the scoring before Muthanna PA struck a brace to take a 3-0 cushion. Likith BP rounded off the tally for a commanding win for Hassan.

In the girls' category, Hockey Dharwad were too good for Hockey Haveri, scoring a lopsided 8–0 win.

Shilpa M Kanjanavar and Soumya Hittalamani struck a brace each while Madhushree Geddikeri, Sukanya M Jakkannavar, Nischita and Preeti N scored one each to complete the tally.

In the kho kho finals, Bengaluru boys clinched gold by beating Bagalkot 16-6 in the final with Belagavi and Dharwad sharing the bronze honours.

Mysuru emerged victorious in girls' section with a 14-10 win over Belagavi in the final. Bagalkot and Davangere bagged bronze medals.

Results: **Kho kho boys' final**: Bengaluru bt Bagalkot 16-6.
Girls' final: Mysuru bt Belagavi 14-10.

McLaren's Norris wins sprint & seizes pole

SAO PAULO, AFP: Series leader Lando Norris continued his dominant run of form by claiming a dramatic late pole for McLaren after a series of shocks in Saturday's tense qualifying session for the Sao Paulo Grand Prix.

The 25-year-old Briton, who reclaimed the leadership of the drivers' world championship by winning in Mexico two weeks ago, reacted to late pressure after a messy opening Q3 lap with a stunning last run in the final seconds.

He clocked one minute and 9.511 seconds to outpace nearest rival Italian teenage rookie Kimi Antonelli of Mercedes by 0.174 seconds after Red Bull's four-time champion Max Verstappen was eliminated in the first qualifying session and seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton of Ferrari in Q2.

They qualified 16th and 13th respectively while McLaren team-mate and title rival Oscar Piastri, who is nine points behind in the title race, was fourth behind Ferrari's Charles Leclerc in an unpredictable session run in windy conditions at Interlagos. Piastri, who had crashed in the morning sprint race won by Norris, said he felt he had no more speed in the car.

Max reprimanded

Red Bull's Max Verstappen, who only qualified 16th for the Brazilian Grand Prix, will start Sunday's race from the pit lane after making modifications to his car. The Dutchman was far from happy on Saturday as he dropped out in the first qualifying session, complaining that he had no grip.

Lando Norris. AFP

Red Bull have responded with sweeping alterations to the car, including a new Honda power unit. Esteban Ocon also made changes and will also start from the pit lane in his Haas.

Verstappen is 39 points behind driver's standing leader Norris, who is on pole position in his McLaren. The Dutch driver needs a series of remarkable results if he is to win a fifth consecutive title.

Last year, in torrential rain, Verstappen won in Sao Paulo after starting 17th. That ended the title hopes of Norris, who had began the race from pole position. Rain is not expected on Sunday afternoon at the Interlagos circuit.

Hussian shocks O'Donoghue, Advani prevails

BENGALURU, DHNS: India's Hussian Khan stunned former professional Brendon O'Donoghue 4-2 in his opening league match of the IBSF World Snooker Championships in Doha late Saturday.

Hussian Khan

The 29-year-old Indian, who came through the first stage qualification, raced to a 3-0 lead over the Irish cueist in the best-of-seven frame Group 'L' match. O'Donoghue pulled one back with a break of 62 in the next before clinching a nervy fifth on the black.

But Hussian regrouped quickly to take the sixth frame and the match with useful contributions.

Results (Indians unless mentioned): Men: Group E: Nicolas Mortreux (Fra) bt Brijesh Damani 4-3 (69-62, 12-112 (73), 52-41, 28-57, 80-53, 46-83, 77-0); Liang Xiaolong (Chn) bt Damani 4-1 (5-104 (98), 72-42, 66-22, 72 (72) -40, 57-29). **Group H**: Pankaj Advani bt Thor Chuan Leong (Mas) 4-3 (61-78, 59-28, 37-72 (54), 66 (55) -21, 67-59, 1-66 (54), 60-19). **Group L**: Hussain Khan bt Brendon O'Donoghue (Ire) 4-2 (81-57, 65-8, 56-48, 50- 62 (62), 59-68, 68-14). **Women: Group A**: Ng On Yee (HKC) bt Shruthi L 2-0 (101-10, 76-8). **Group B**: Keerthana Pandian bt Setayesh Amirazimi (Irn) 2-0 (47-8, 55-29). **Group D**: Amee Kamani bt Choi Yan Tung (HKC) 2-1 (51-25, 33-62, 66-11).

Ishaan dominates to wear crown

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru's Ishaan Madesh of Peregrine Racing capped a flawless campaign by clinching the Senior Max title as the MECO-FMSCI National Karting Championship (Rotax Max Classes) concluded at Meco Kartopia track on Sunday.

The teenager won both the Pre-Final and Final races in Round 6, repeating his Round 5 double to secure the National crown. Peregrine Racing also took the team championship, while Ishaan will represent India at the RMC Grand Finals in Bahrain later this month.

Meanwhile, Faridabad's Arshi Gupta (Leapfrog Racing) made history by becoming the first female National champion. Chennai's Eshanth Vengatesan (Junior Max) and Rivaan Dev Preetham (Mini Max) completed the list of National champions.

From left: National karting champions Ishaan Madesh (senior), Arshi Gupta (micro), Reevan Dev Preetham (mini) and Eshanth Vengatesan (junior) pose with their spoils in Bengaluru on Sunday.

Final standings: Senior: Ishaan Madesh (Bengaluru, Peregrine Racing). **Team champions:** Peregrine Racing. **Best rookie:** Gabriel Irigaray Baur (Jaipur, Peregrine Racing).
Junior: Eshanth Vengatesan (Chennai, MSPORT). **Team champions:** MSPORT. **Best rookie:** Armaan Dhawan (Delhi, Leapfrog Racing).
Mini: Rivaan Dev Preetham (Chennai, MSPORT). **Team champions:** MSPORT. **Best rookie:** Yasvinraam Rajamanickam (Chennai, Momentum Motorsports).
Micro: Arshi Gupta (Faridabad, Leapfrog Racing). **Team champions:** Leapfrog Racing. **Best rookie:** Micah Andrews (Tirunulveli, Peregrine Racing).

Rybakina captures WTA Finals for her second biggest title

RIYADH, AFP: Elena Rybakina (**in pic**) clinched her biggest title since Wimbledon in 2022 by defeating world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka 6-3, 7-6 (7/0) at the WTA Finals in Riyadh on Saturday.

The world No. 6 put on yet another serving masterclass and was at her returning best as she became the first Kazakh and the first player representing an Asian country to lift the WTA Finals singles trophy.

Having gone 3-0 in round-robin play, Rybakina earned a record $5.235 million and will finish the year ranked number five in the world.

"It's been an incredible week, I honestly didn't expect any result, and to go so far, it's just incredible," said Rybakina, who battled a shoulder injury all week.

The ace leader on tour with 516 struck this season, Rybakina fired 13 against Sabalenka on Saturday, and finished the week with a total of 48 in Riyadh.

Djokovic's 101st title

Novak Djokovic won the 101st title of his career when he came from behind to overwhelm Lorenzo Musetti 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 in the summit clash of the ATP event in Athens on Saturday.

The Serb is one of just three men to have racked up a century of titles - he still needs two to equal Roger Federer's 103 while Jimmy Connors heads the list with 109.

At 38 years and five months old, the 24-time Grand Slam winner is the oldest tournament winner since Australia's Ken Rosewall, who was 43 when he won in Hong Kong in 1977.

STAR-STUDDED QPL

Celebrities at the launch of the second edition of the Queens' Premier League which will kick off with preliminary events on Monday before the grand main league from November 12-15 at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium in Bengaluru.

CSK may swap Sanju for Jadeja, Curran

NEW DELHI, PTI: Rajasthan Royals are likely to trade their captain Sanju Samson for star Chennai Super Kings all-rounders Ravindra Jadeja and Sam Curran ahead of the Indian Premier League 2026.

Samson has spent a majority of his IPL career with the Royals whom he has also led since being named their full-time captain in IPL 2021.

Sanju Samson

A senior official from five-time IPL winners Chennai Super Kings confirmed to PTI that the franchise is interested in roping in the 30-year-old Samson, who has also been a regular member of the Indian T20I side.

"Everyone knows we are interested in getting Sanju. We have expressed our interest of procuring him in this trading window. RR is yet to confirm as their management said they are weighing the options. We are hopeful Sanju will play for CSK," a senior CSK official said on condition of anonymity.

Samson has represented RR, the winners of the inaugural IPL in 2008, for 11 years and after the conclusion of this year's edition, the wicketkeeper-batter had admitted that he was looking for a change and wanted to be released by the franchise.

Jadeja, who was a member of the Rajasthan Royals in the first two IPL editions, has spent a majority of his career at Chennai Super Kings, where he has not just been one of their frontline players, but was also promoted to captaincy when MS Dhoni stepped away from the role before the 2022 edition.

The 27-year-old England all-rounder Curran has been a part of CSK as well as Punjab Kings franchises.

CRICKET FOUR-DAY MATCH

South Africa A hunt down big chase

Visitors stun India A with a five-wkt win to level the series

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

South Africa A turned the tables on India A as they snatched an emphatic five-wicket win on a not-so-responsive fourth and final day surface at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in the second unofficial Test here on Sunday.

Connor Esterhuizen (52 n.o., 54b, 8x4, 1x6) and Tiaan van Vuuren (20 n.o., 23b, 1x6) survived some anxious moments before taking South Africa A over the line in 98 overs as the match went well past the scheduled close on the final day, finishing at 5:24 pm.

Mohammed Siraj (1/53), Prasidh Krishna (2/49), Akash Deep (1/106), Harsh Dubey (1/111) and Kuldeep Yadav (0/81) threw everything at the South African batters but failed to break their dogged resistance.

India, though, had reason for optimism with four Indian bowlers (74 Tests combined) in their ranks when they walked out on the fourth day with South Africa A needing a massive 392 more runs to win or survive 90 overs for a draw.

Chasing a target of 417 for victory, the counter-attacking Hermann and the steady Lesego Senokwane (77, 174b, 11x4) produced an impressive 156-run first-wicket stand in 43 overs to lay the perfect platform for the chase.

Like they expertly did on the final hour of the third day, the openers left balls outside off and were going after deliveries that were either too short or full in the morning.

They also picked easy singles, not allowing the India A bowlers to build any sort of pressure and peeled off boundaries at will, including a 16-run over of the added four fours for he day.

At one point, Kuldeep Yadav changed ends, but that did not alter his fortunes as South Africa A's openers continued to dominate proceedings.

The openers reached a 100-run partnership in 152 balls, going into lunch at 139 for no loss in 38 overs.

However, it was Prasidh who gave India their first breakthrough with a sharp reflex catch in his follow-through, smashed off a full toss in the 43rd over as Hermann missed out on a well-deserved ton.

Senokwane was playing Harsh well, especially with some balls keeping low but it was the off-spinner who had the last laugh when the batter's desperation got him sweeping against the turn and was trapped in front in the 53rd over.

Zubayr Hamza (77, 88b, 9x4, 3x6) and Temba Bavuma (59, 101b, 7x4) then put their heads down and built a steady 107-run partnership to step on the accelerator again.

Hamza smashed Harsh and Kuldeep, not allowing the spinners to settle, ensuring South Africa A were not bogged down and maintaining a good scoring rate.

Just when it felt like South Africa A would shut down the chasing doors after losing Hazma and Bavuma to Prasidh and Akash respectively, the lower-order came to the rescue to cap off a magnificent chase and level the series 1-1.

Zubayr Hamza (left) and Temba Bavuma struck a half-century each to help South Africa A chase down India A's massive target on the final day of their four-day match. DH PHOTO/ KRISHNAKUMAR P S

SCORE BOARD

INDIA A (I Innings): 255 all out
SOUTH AFRICA A (I Innings): 221 all out
INDIA A (II Innings) 382/7 decl
SOUTH AFRICA A (II Innings): Jordan Hermann c&b Prasidh 91 (123b, 13x4, 1x6), Lesego Senokwane lbw Harsh 77 (174b, 11x4), Zubayr Hamza b Prasidh 77 (88b, 9x4, 3x6), Temba Bavuma c Sudharsan b Akash 59 (101b, 7x4), Marques Ackermann c Jurel b Siraj 24 (26b, 4x4), Connor Esterhuizen (not out) 52 (54b, 8x4, 1x6), Tiaan van Vuuren (not out) 20 (23b, 1x6). Extras (LB-6, B-5, W-5, 1-NB) 17. **TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 98 overs) 417**
Fall of wickets: 1-156 (Hermann), 2-197 (Senokwane), 3-304 (Hamza), 4-431 (Ackerman), 5-352 (Bavuma).
Bowling: Mohammed Siraj 17-4-53-1, Akash Deep 22-3-106-1, Prasidh Krishna 15-3-29-2, Kuldeep Yadav 17-2-81-0, Harsh Dubey 25-1-111-1, Sai Sudharsan 1-0-3-0, Devdutt Padikkal 1-0-3-0.
PoM: Marques Ackerman
PoS: Dhruv Jurel.

Aneeshwar ton in vain as UP score big win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Skipper Aneeshwar Gautam's 94-ball 118 went in vain as Uttar Pradesh chased down 307 to hand Karnataka a seven-wicket defeat in their Group D opening match of the Men's U-23 State A Trophy (elite) in Jaipur on Sunday.

Sent to bat first at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Gautam's ton, backed by opener Prakhar Chaturvedi's 54 and Karthikeya KP's 43, took Karnataka to 306/9 in 50 overs. Pacer Vijay Kumar (3/50) and Kartik Yadav (3/48) were the pick among UP bowlers.

In response, UP openers Adarsh Singh (91) and Kavya Teotia (53) took good measures of Karnataka bowlers in a stand of 132 runs. The duo's dismissal in the middle overs brought little respite as Ruturaj Sharma (75 not out) and skipper Sameer Rizvi (61) kept scoring at a good rate to seal the victory with 20 balls to spare.

Karnataka will take on Vidarabha in their next match in six-team Group D. The top two from the group will qualify for the quarter-finals.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 306/9 in 50 overs (Prakhar Chaturvedi 54, Aneeshwar Gautam 118, Karthikeya KP 43; Abdul Rehman 2-65, Vijay Kumar 3-50, Kartik Yadav 3-48) lt to Uttar Pradesh: 307/3 in 46.4 overs (Adarsh Singh 91, Kavya Teotia 53, Ruturaj Sharma 75 n.o., Sameer Rizvi 61)

Aneeshwar. FILE PHOTO

All-round Shreyas gives Karnataka the edge

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka's spin duo of Shreyas Gopal (4/46) and Mohsin Khan (2/56) shared six wickets between them to put Maharashtra on the back foot as the hosts finished on 200 for the loss of six wickets in 66 overs at stumps on the second day of their fourth Elite Group B fixture at the MCA Cricket Ground in Pune.

Jalaj Saxena (34, 78b, 4x4) and Vicky Ostwal (4, 29b) saw the day through without any further hiccups, still trailing Karnataka by 113 runs at close.

Shreyas was the catalyst of Maharashtra's collapse as he drew first blood in the 19th over when he removed Arshin Kulkarni (34, 48b, 5x4), who showed some promise but threw his wicket away after being stumped by KL Shrijith.

Siddesh Veer (0, 3b) followed his partner without troubling the scorers, giving the leg-spinner his second wicket, again stumped off Shrijith.

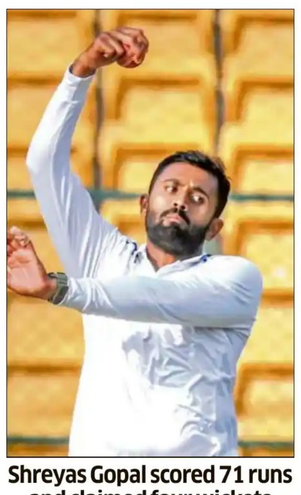
Shreyas sent skipper Ankeet Bavane (6, 17b) in the 27th over and the young off-spinner Mohsin Khan joined in on the act and removed the in-form Prithvi Shaw (71, 92b, 9x4) and Sachin Dhas (21, 32b, 2x4) to put Maharashtra in disarray at 139 for five.

Saurabh Nawale (26, 98b, 3x4) and Saxena then stitched a crucial 44-run partnership. Just when Maharashtra were a little at ease, Shreyas picked up his fourth, sending back Saurabh.

Earlier in the day, Karnataka managed to bat for 22 overs in the morning, adding just 56 runs to their overnight score of 257/5. It could have been much worse for the tourists if not for a 22-run 10th-wicket stand between Shreyas (71, 122b, 3x4, 1x6) and Vidwath Kaverappa (0 n.o., 6b) after losing three wickets for four runs.

Abhinav Manohar (47, 129, 3x4, 2x6) was dismissed in the 97th over by left-arm quick Mukesh Choudhary, which triggered the collapse.

In the process, Shreyas ended up registering his 18th first-class fifty, frustrating the hosts who were desperate for a breakthrough. However, it did come on the final ball of the 111th over, thanks to Vicky Ostwal (2/53).



Shreyas Gopal scored 71 runs and claimed four wickets to give Karnataka an upper hand on the second day of their Group B Ranji Trophy match against Maharashtra in Pune on Sunday.
DH FILE PHOTO

SCORE BOARD

KARNATAKA (I Innings O/n 257/5): Aneesh KV lbw Saxena 34 (58b, 4x4, 1x6), Mayank Agarwal 80 (181b, 7x4, 2x6), Shrijith KL lbw Saxena 10 (15b, 2x4), Karun Nair b Ghosh 4 (14b), Smaran R c Bawane b Ostwal 54 (84b, 7x4), Abhinav Manohar b Mukesh 47 (129b, 3x4, 2x6), Shreyas Gopal c Dhas b Ostwal 71 (162b, 9x4), Venkatesh M c Nawale b Mukesh 0 (2b), Mohsin 0 (1b), Abhilash b Saxena 0 (14b), Vidwath (not out) (6b). Extras (LB-13) 13. **TOTAL (all out, 111 overs) 313.**
Fall of wickets: 1-66 (Aneesh), 2-82 (Shrijith), 3-89 (Karun), 4-188 (Smaran), 5-194 (Agarwal), 6-276 (Abhinav), 7-276 (Venkatesh), 8-280 (Mohsin), 9-291 (Abhilash).
Bowling: Rajneesh Gurbani 14-2-38-0, Mukesh Chowdhary 17-3-66-3, Vicky Ostwal 26-8-53-2, Jalaj Saxena 35-3-94-4, RS Ghosh 19-4-49-1.
MAHARASHTRA (I Innings): Prithvi Shaw c Aneesh b Mohsin 71 (92b, 9x4), Arshin Kulkarni st Shrijith b Shreyas 34 (48b, 5x4), Siddesh Veer st Shrijith b Shreyas 0 (4b), Ankeet Bawane b Shreyas 6 (17b), Sachin Dhas lbw Mohsin 21 (32b, 2x4), SS Nawale a Aneesh b Shreyas 26 (98b, 3x4), Jalaj Saxena (batting) 34 (78b, 4x4). Vicky Ostwal (batting) 4 (29). Extras (NB-1, LB-2, B-2) 4.
TOTAL (for 6 wkts, 66 overs) 200
Fall of wickets: 1-98 (Arshin), 2-100 (Veer), 3-112 (Bawane), 4-114 (Shaw), 5-139 (Dhas), 6-183 (Nawale).
Bowling: Vidwath Kaverappa 9-0-47-0, Abhilash Shetty 4-0-20-0, Shreyas Gopal 23-3-46-4, M Venkatesh 6-1-28-0, Mohsin Khan 24-3-56-2
Group B brief scores: At Porvorim: Goa: (O/n: 256/8) 284 all out (Suyash Prabudessai 65, Snehal Kauthankar 41, Lalit Yadav 41, Darshal Misal 44, Deepraj Goankar 51.; Saransh Jain 4-78, Kumar Kartikeya 3-88) vs Madhya Pradesh: 181/7 in 73 overs (Rishabh Chouhan 43, Saransh Jain 48; Arjun Tendulkar 2-34, Vasuki Koushik 3-33, Lalit Yadav 2-22).
At Chandigarh: Chandigarh: 173 & 168/7 in 57.2 overs (Manan Vohra 32, Nikhil Thakur 32, Ankit Kaushik 38, Gaurav Puri 31; Ayush Goyal 2-40, Harpreet Brar 3-47) vs Punjab (O/n: 71/3) 142 all out (Harnoor Singh 29, Uday Saharan 31, Anmol Malhotra 33, Salil Arora 25; Vishu Kashyap 3-15, Jagjit Singh 2-37, Nishunk Bilra 4-18).
At Mangalapuram: Saurashtra 160 all out & 47/1 in 17 overs vs Kerala (O/n: 82/2) 233 all out in 74.5 overs (Rohan Kunnummal 80, Baba Aparajith 69, Ankit Sharma 38; Jaydev Unadkat 4-42, Hiten Kanbi 2-53).

11-BALL 50

Meghalaya batter hits 8 sixes in a row

SURAT, PTI

Meghalaya's Akash Kumar (**in pic**) Choudhary on Sunday became the first player to hit eight sixes in a row in first-class cricket while also recording the fastest half-century in the format, off only 11 deliveries, during a Ranji Trophy Plate Group match against Arunachal Pradesh here.

Batting at No. 8, 25-year-old Choudhary achieved the stunning feat on the second day of the match at the CK Pithawala Ground here. He remained not out on 50 off 14 balls, helping Meghalaya declare their first innings at a mammoth 628 for 6.

Choudhary broke the previous record of fastest fifty in first-class cricket, which was set by Leicestershire's Wayne White in 12 deliveries against Essex in 2012. He also became only the third player ever to hit six sixes in a row in first-class cricket after the legendary Sir Garfield Sobers of the West Indies and India's Ravi Shastri.

Choudhary recorded the feat with Meghalaya cruising at 576 for six. Having started his innings with a dot and two singles, the right-handed batter hit the next eight deliveries for sixes. He sent each of Limar Dabi's deliveries of the 126th over flying over the ropes.

Before Sunday's outing, he averaged 14.37 with two fifties in 30 first-class games, including this year's Duleep Trophy for North East Zone.

Ryan Williams

Aussie, who turned Indian, joins Natl camp

NEW DELHI, PTI: Forward Ryan Williams, who has relinquished his Australian passport to become an Indian citizen, has joined the Khalid Jamil-coached national team camp in Bengaluru, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) said on Sunday.

Born in Perth, the 32-year-old entered the camp along with East Bengal defender Jay Gupta.

"Forward Ryan Williams, and defender Jay Gupta have joined the senior men's national team camp in Bengaluru," the AIFF posted on X.

In what could mark a new beginning for Indian football, the game's national federation AIFF earlier this week roped in two overseas-based players -- Williams and Abneet Bharti -- for the national camp ahead of the AFC Asian Cup qualifier against Bangladesh in Dhaka on November 18.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

4th T20I: New Zealand vs West Indies **(5:45 am). LIVE** on **Sony Ten 1** and **FanCode.**

Ranji Trophy: Delhi vs J&K, Vidarbha vs Odisha, Haryana vs Uttarakhand **(Day 3, 9:30 am). LIVE** on **JioHotstar.**

TENNIS

ATP Finals: Doubles round robin **(4:00 pm). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 2.**

Bhanwala earns career-best silver at ISSF Worlds

CAIRO, PTI: India's Anish Bhanwala endured two nerve-wracking shoot-offs in a high-quality 25m rapid-fire pistol final to clinch the biggest medal of his shooting career, a silver at the ISSF World Championships (Pistol/Rifle) here on Sunday.

Anish Bhanwala. NRAI

The 23-year-old Haryana marksman more than made up for his 2024 Paris Olympics disappointment with a steady performance that saw him first survive a shoot-off for third place, and then ward off the challenge from Ukraine's Maksym Horodynets to win the silver medal with a score of 28 in a competition that tested the resolve of all six finalists.

The Sonipat shooter looked determined on Sunday as he first qualified for the finals in second place with a brilliant 585. After shooting 291 in Stage 1 of the qualification on Saturday, he came back determined to notch up 294 in Stage 2 on Sunday and make it to the first pistol final of the World Championships.

Frenchman Clement Bessaguet, who won the gold tallying 31 points, topped the qualification with a score of 589.

Anish has also booked his place for the World Cup Final, which will be held in Doha next month.

Earlier in the day, the Air Rifle mixed teams could not qualify for the medal matches as the pair of Arjun Babuta and Elavenil Valarivan finished in eighth with a combined score of 632.3.

Man City celebrate Pep's milestone in style

LONDON, AFP

Manchester City celebrated Pep Guardiola's 1,000th game as a manager with a 3-0 win against Liverpool that lifted them back into the Premier League title race, while Nottingham Forest beat Leeds 3-1 to bolster their survival bid on Sunday.

Erling Haaland missed an early penalty at the Etihad Stadium, but the City striker recovered to give Guardiola's side the lead.

Nico Gonzalez increased their advantage before half-time and Jeremy Doku capped his man of the match performance with City's third in the second half.

It was the perfect way for former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss Guardiola to mark the latest milestone in a glittering 17-year career, including 716 victories.

Nottingham Forest beat relegation rivals Leeds 3-1 to secure the first Premier League victory of Sean Dyche's reign in West Bridgford.

Nottingham Forest's Morgan Gibbs-White celebrates after scoring his side's second goal against Leeds United at The City Ground in Nottingham on Sunday. AFP

Sunderland hold Arsenal

Arsenal's 10-game winning run came to an end as Brian Brobbey's last-gasp goal gave Sunderland a dramatic 2-2 draw against the Premier League leaders in London on Saturday.

At Stamford Bridge, Chelsea quelled criticism of Enzo Maresca's rotation policy.

Former Manchester United star Wayne Rooney said Chelsea's senior players should "question" Maresca's selections after the Italian made seven changes for a 2-2 draw against Azerbaijani'a Qarabag in the Champions League.

Results: Manchester City: 3 (Haaland 29, Gonzalez 45+3, Doku 63) bt Liverpool: 0; Nottingham: 3 (Sangare 15th, Gibbs-White 68th, Anderson 90+1st pen) bt Leeds: 1 (Nmecha 13th); Chelsea: 3 (Gusto 51st, Pedro 65th, Neto 73rd) bt Wolves: 0; S'land: 2 (Ballard 36th, Brobbey 90+4th) drew with Arsenal: 2 (Saka 54th, Trossard 74th); Aston Villa: 4 (Buendia 28nd, Onana 40th, Barkley 77th, Malen 82nd) bt B'mouth: 0; Brentford 3 (Schade 56th, Thiago 78th pen, 90+5th) bt N'castle: 1 (Barnes 27th).

Rayo Vallecano frustrate Liga leaders Real Madrid

MADRID, AFP: La Liga leaders Real Madrid were left frustrated in a 0-0 draw at Rayo Vallecano on Sunday, giving champions Barcelona a chance to close in on them.

Xabi Alonso's side moved five points clear of Villarreal in second and six ahead of the third-placed Catalans, who visit Celta Vigo later on. Rayo battled strongly in the derby clash and although Real Madrid had the better chances, the hosts also had opportunities to win a scrappy game.

They managed to limit La Liga top scorer Kylian Mbappe's influence, while keeping Vinicius Junior and Jude Bellingham safely at arm's length as well. Madrid were hoping to bounce back from their Champions League defeat by Liverpool at Anfield on Tuesday but Alonso's team dropped points for only the second time this season in the league.

Griezmann scores brace

Antoine Griezmann (**in pic**) came off the bench and struck twice for Atletico Madrid to help his side beat Levante 3-1 on Saturday.

Villarreal moved provisionally second with a 2-0 win at Espanyol, while Diego Simeone's Atletico are fourth. Atletico continued their 11-match unbeaten run in La Liga in part thanks to Griezmann's second-half impact.

Results: Rayo Vallecano: 0 drew with Real Madrid: 0; Atletico Madrid: 3 (De la Fuente 12th og, Griezmann 61st, 80th) bt Levante: 1 (Sanchez 21st); Espanyol: 0 lt to Villarreal: 2 (Moreno 43rd, Moleiro 57th); Athletic Bilbao: 1 (Nico Williams 25th) bt Real Oviedo: 0; Girona: 1 (Tsygankov 16th) bt Alaves: 0; Sevilla: 1 (Vargas 51st pen) bt Osasuna: 0.

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